



Value of the Month: Taking Pride

Dear Parents/Friends,

Yet another half term has flown by and here we are approaching the Easter holidays! I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of our families this term for your continued support over the course of the term. We hope that, looking forwards, the next term is an opportunity to embrace summer and all that this brings.

Happy Early Retirement Mrs Tarrant

As I explained in the last newsletter, today is Mrs Tarrant's last day in school. I know that you will all wish to join with us in wishing her the absolute best as she enters into her early retirement. She will be greatly missed by the whole of our school community, and we wish her well.



Sharing Good News – PE Deep Dive

We are delighted to share with everyone in our school community that we have recently taken part in a PE deep dive experience. Nina Sweetland, PE specialist in Milton Keynes, was invited into school to observe and understand the excellent provision our children receive in PE. She was delighted with the outcomes and recognises the incredible work our PE coaches do. Huge congratulations to Mr Smyth and Mr Neal for such a successful day.



Focus on our Values

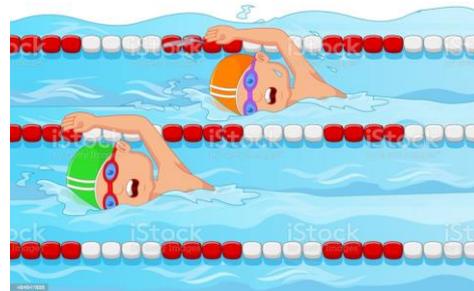


At Priory Rise we always have a focus on a different value each month. This month is no exception; our attention has turned to the value of 'Taking Pride.' Within assemblies, PSHE lessons and in other curriculum areas, we consider what makes us proud. It has been a pleasure to hear from some of our pupils who have shared how proud they are of siblings. Thank you to our families of the Nursery classes who have shared

with the school community what makes them proud of their children. The wall display created is beautiful – I am sure you will agree.

Swimming Success in Blackman Class

It has been the turn of Brilliant Blackman Class to wow us with their swimming achievements this term. Blackman Class have been exemplary in their conduct travelling to and from the swimming pool each week and have made fabulous progress. They have attended swimming with enthusiasm, determination and such a positive attitude. All of the children showed great life-saving skills and learnt how to use their clothes to save their partner. They used their communication skills and team work to save their friends from the water. All the children have made excellent progress and 14 of our brilliant children can now swim 100m. Miss Brown is so incredibly proud of them and everything they have achieved.



Well done Blackman Class!

Next in line to participate in swimming lessons is Horowitz Class, who will be swimming during the summer term. We look forward to hearing about their achievements towards the end of the Summer term.

Raising Money for DEC



Thank you so much to the school community for joining together in raising money for the charity Disasters Emergency Committee. This money will enable donations to support people who are fleeing Ukraine at this traumatic time. More information is available at www.DEC.org.uk

The children loved spending the day in their own clothes; it was lovely to see their personalities shining through their outfit choices. We have raised a massive and quite remarkable £1091.57. A huge well done to everyone! Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Attendance and Leave of Absence

We have recently noticed an increase in requests for families to take children out of school to travel overseas, or to take holidays. May I remind everyone that we have a duty to ensure that children are in school for as much as possible, so that they can benefit from the excellent provision that is on offer during the school term. Every lesson counts. Children's learning builds on what has gone before. It is so very important. Please can I urge families to take their holidays in the 13 weeks when school is not open for the children.

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There is a direct correlation between children's attendance and their outcomes.

To be clear, unless children are poorly or there are extremely extenuating circumstances, leave of absence will not be authorised. In addition, to support in the decision-making process, we will be asking families to provide documented evidence to support their requests for leave of absence.

Warmer Weather

Our weather has certainly presented us with a variety of seasons this half term! We have contended with storms, snow and summer sun over the term. Moving into the summer term, I am sure the weather is set to improve and with this in mind please can I ask that care is taken to provide your child/children with a summer hat and ensure that, should the sun put in an appearance, that sun cream is applied before school. Staff are unable to apply cream for children. Many thanks.



Use of Google Classroom

Google Classroom has become a regular feature of the way that we work in school. As everyone knows, we were able to use this excellent resource to its best when we were forced into lockdown and children were at home and teachers were teaching online at the height of the pandemic. This is an excellent resource to use when everyone is using it to learn at the same time.

Since that time and being back in school, we have been able to make positive use of this facility if children are at home and have tested positive themselves, so have not been able to attend school. This is not ideal, but if children are at home and have been feeling well enough, they are able to access lessons using this platform, so that they do not fall behind with their learning.



However, the use of Google Classroom is not a replacement for school attendance. Children do not experience the best lessons using this resource, as they miss the interaction and discussions about the learning with the teachers and other children in the classroom. In addition, using Google Classroom in school requires some significant input from the teachers in school. Trying to teach children at home, whilst also providing and facilitating learning in the classroom provides another challenge for our teaching staff.

So – please bear with us!

If your child has tested positive for COVID and has to work from home, accessing the learning via this route is the next options. However, there may be a delay in your child being able to access this platform, as teachers need to have time to provide children with a timetable of the lessons that they are able to access using Google Classroom, as not all lessons can be provided via this platform – e.g.

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art and PE - and staff will need time to upload the relevant resources. There may be a change to the arrangements that are happening in school – for example, a singing assembly may last longer than anticipated, or there may be a special, visitor event happening in school. Please also note that teachers do not access their year group emails during lesson times and very often not during the school day as they are busy teaching lessons to the children in school, so may not be informed that your child is isolating. If informing the school office of children isolating and requiring Google Classroom does not mean that children at home will gain access immediately – as the teachers need time to set things up for them in school. Please be patient with us.

In addition, please understand:

- We are only using the Google Classroom resource for children who are at home isolating due to COVID – and for the children who feel well enough to work online.
- If children are at home because they are ill in any other way, they will not have access to Google Classroom. If children are well enough to attend lessons, they should be in school.
- If families are taking a trip overseas or an unauthorised holiday, children will not be able to access Google Classroom. Children should be in school for lessons during term time.

Thank you all for your understanding and for continuing to work positively with us to support children in their learning.

Science Eggs-periments

Our Year 4 children were set an experiment for homework to test which drinks are good or bad for our teeth. Children have really impressed us with the investigations that they have carried out at home – with some surprising results. Here are James J and Kate in full scientist mode.



Science Competition Results

We were thrilled with the number of children who entered the Science competition this year. There were so many incredible posters making it very hard to decide on overall year group winners. Congratulations to the following children: Aanvi, Imani and Jessica (Year 5), who worked on a group project together, Daya from Year 6, Ria in Year 2, Vedanth in Year 1, Freddie in Year 3 and Konstaninos in Year 4. These children’s posters were celebrated today in assembly.

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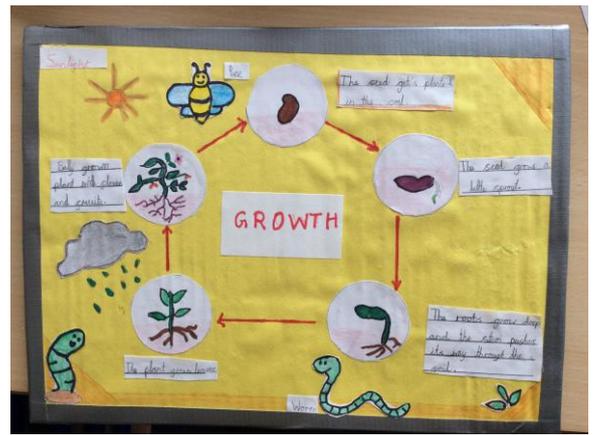
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Early Birds and Night Owls – wraparound provision

We currently have space available for families who wish to use Early Birds and Night Owls as a childcare provision. More information can be found on our school website of timings and prices. Please email the school office to register your interest.

Sporting Events



There have been so many sporting events over the last couple of weeks. Huge thanks to all of the children and our wonderful PE team: Mr Smyth and Mr Neal.

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 Basketball team came in bronze medal position at the MKSSP Basketball finals - winning 4 and losing 2 matches.

Squad: Finley, Fela, Ethan S, Callum, James, Alessia, Emma, Amy and Jaime.

The Year 6 netball team qualified for Finals Night by winning all of their matches at the qualifying event. Great netball was played by all throughout the night. Well done to Bella, Freya, Zara, Georgia, Amy, Alessia and Emma.

The Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics team came in 5th place in the MKSSP finals. The competition standard was very high on the night. Excellent work: Dara, Isla, Anna, Alessia, Emma T, Imani, Hana, Nana, Jamie, Ethan, Jaden, Chris, Callum, Kwame, Maro and Finley.



The Year 3 Netball team played in some friendly netball matches and played some really encouraging Netball managing to win their last match by 3. Well done to Taisa, Vera, Julia, Neriah, Abigail and Valeria.

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The boys' Year 5/6 football team played their last Champions League matches and sadly didn't qualify for the next round. The boys should be extremely proud of their performances over the past few months in which they've played some brilliant football! Thank you to Ethan S, Chris, Callum, Lewis, Brody, Finley and Arnau.

The Year 5 Football team played in a friendly match against Oxley Park School in a closely contested match. A great experience for all involved – well done to Lucian, Francesco, Rio, Jonah, Kwame, Mirza, Kai, Jaiden G, Jeremy and Noah.

Huge congratulations to all the children who have participated and enjoyed such great sporting success. Priory Rise children are competing in a huge range of sporting festivals and competitions, and as a result of our wonderful sports team are seeing some excellent achievements. In addition, many thanks to Mr Neal and Mr Smyth for providing excellent support, training and sporting role models for our young people.

Premier Camp



Premier Camp will again be holding a holiday club here at Priory Rise School during the Easter holidays. For further details or to make last minute bookings, contact 01908 597940 or book online at www.premier-education.com.

Sponsoring our PE team?

Our wonderful sports teams, who are competing on such a regular basis, are looking to upgrade their sportswear. Could you or a company you work for offer sponsorship for our school kit? Please contact the office who will pass on your information to the PE team. Many thanks.

Dates for the Diary:

Friday 8th April – break for Easter holidays
Monday 25th April - Return to school for the summer term
Monday 25th April – Parents Meeting for Year 5 Irthlingborough Residential
Wednesday 4th May – Friday 6th May – Year 5 Residential
Thursday 5th May – Year 1 Showcase Assembly – 9am in the Large Hall
Week beginning 9th May – Year 6 SATs week (Monday-Thursday)
Thursday 12th May – Friday 13th May – Year 4 Residential to Caldecotte
Wednesday 18th May – Reception Showcase Assembly – 8.45am in the Large Hall
Friday 20th May – Year 3 Sleepover
Thursday 26th May – Year 6 Robin Hood Day
Friday 27th May – break for half term
Monday 6th June – INSET day
Tuesday 7th June – Children return to school for final term of the year



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And Finally...



Following another incredibly buzzing, busy and enjoyable half term, may I take this opportunity to wish all our families a very happy and restful Easter break.

Best regards as always,

Ruth Seagar

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