



## Value of the Month: Reflection

**Dear Parents/Friends,**

I can barely believe that we are now at the end of the summer term – and indeed the whole academic year. It has been a wonderful, exceptionally busy term, where children have enjoyed enormous success and a wide range of exciting activities. Here is the last round-up of news for the end of the school year.

### Class Swap

On Monday this week, the children enjoyed a hugely successful morning meeting their new teachers and working together in their new classes – despite the soaring temperatures! We look forward to the children returning in September to continue their learning journeys in their new classes and settling well into new routines.

### Friends of Priory Rise School – ‘P Fest’ success



Registered Charity Number  
1145969

Huge congratulations to our ‘Friends of Priory Rise’ who hosted our first and enormously successful ‘P Fest’ on Friday 1st July. This event was very well attended and enjoyed by a huge number of families and friends.

Particular thanks to our lovely Natalie Huff – the Chair of the Friends of Priory Rise – and the happy band of the committee who worked incredibly hard to arrange the events and items for the day – in particular, Mrs Ruth Ruston, Mr Sean de Fraine and Mrs Kelly. You are all so very wonderful! Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who attended this wonderful event and supported in their own way. Despite the ‘Friends’ deciding to have a focus on enjoyment for our families, this event raised a truly magnificent £3344 for the school to use on new equipment and resources for the children. Many thanks to everyone involved.

In addition, the Friends of Priory Rise are conducting a survey on the success of this event, so that they can use the responses to make adjustments to the planning for next year. The link for this survey can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAAAPX3ZNUN0wwTkRCNUUpKNFZZQjFaUzg3UExSQIIBUi4u&wdLOR=c8C8B07B2-58C7-44A6-BA40-B8306738861B>

## **New Facebook Parent Portal – photo permission**

Many of our families have already signed up to our new Facebook Parent Portal and initial feedback seems to be that families are enjoying this new addition. Yippee!



With this in mind, I wondered if parents may consider this when completing the permission for photographs to be shared form that we will be re-sending out at the beginning of the new term in September. As it stands, when we take photos in school, we go back to our permissions information and if we do not have permission, obviously, we do not post the pictures. This may be something that families want to consider, when deciding on permissions for photos for your children. Many families have expressed that they would like their children's pictures posting, but when we go back to the permission forms they have not given permission for this.

In addition, please remember that when using the parent portal, this is not a place for us to answer questions about the operations of the school. This is just a place for school to share celebrations and reminders. If you have questions about the details of school life, please use the school office or the year group email addresses. Many thanks.

## **Sporting Updates**



Our PE teams have been so very busy competing out and about and we are delighted to report the last of our sporting successes this year:

A huge congratulations to our 16 children that qualified to take part in the MKSSP Athletics finals at Stantonbury. Three of our children, Naga (Joint Gold), Finley B (Gold) and Jasmine S (Silver) came away with medals on the morning.

Well done to Jaidon, Hana, Chris, Muhammad, Alessia, Taisa, Tharun, Finley B, Jasmine S, Finlay G, Jake B, Demmi, Naga, Devansh, Hope, James, who made it to and participated in the finals. Brilliant!

The Years 5 and 6 Cricket team represented Milton Keynes at the county school games and narrowly missed out on making the grand final. Winning matches and narrowly losing 1 match was not quite enough as they were denied by another team scoring 6 more runs than them on the day.

A huge credit to the team who represented the school and themselves played superbly on the day.

Enormous congratulations to: Ethan S, Devansh, Naga, Harry, George, Brody, Shivam, Lucian, Jaiteerth.

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The Years 5 and 6 girls football team came away from finals night with bronze medals. Winning 3 matches and losing 2 on the night. The girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the group. With a record over the season of 10 wins, 1 draw and 2 defeats the girls have done amazingly well! Many congratulations to the squad of Mia, Sophie, Amber, Zara, Georgia, Dara and Freya. Brilliant work girls!

Huge congratulations to all our sporting successes and many thanks to Mr Neal and Mr Smyth who have led, motivated and inspired our young people in all aspects of PE so brilliantly across the year.

## Sports Days Success

And while we are on the subject of sport...



Many thanks to everyone who attended our school sports day events.

We were really fortunate to have brilliant weather for all 5 events that we facilitated and that our families were so enthusiastic supporters. Congratulations to all the children who participated. Huge thank you to the Year 5 and 6 children who helped at the events. What a wonderful job they did! Across the years we have trialled so many different versions, and we feel that the format this year allowed more children to participate in more events.

Once again – many thanks to everyone for such excellent support.

## 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.

## Baby News



We are delighted to report that Mrs Mortimer Fox and her husband have welcomed their new baby boy onto the world – Isaac George. How wonderful! All reports are that mum and baby are thriving. We know that you will all join with us in wishing them all many congratulations on this wonderful news.

## More Staffing Updates

As you already know, today we are waving goodbye to Miss Sophie Fenables and Miss Rhiannon Bwye, who are taking this amazing opportunity to go to work as teachers in Dubai.



In addition, Miss Rebecca Hankin is moving to work at another school across the city; Miss Emily Roberts is moving to Tavistock, where she will continue to teach in a very small village school and Miss Paula Best, has made the decision to leave and set up her own new business. How exciting!

Whilst we are all incredibly sad to see these wonderful teachers whisk off to pastures new, we wish



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them all the absolute best in their new ventures and know that they will always be part of our Priory Rise family.

Good luck ladies – we wish you the very best - and thank you for all your hard work here at Priory Rise.

This means that we are welcoming a number of new teachers to Priory Rise in September:

- Miss Hannah Jank will be teaching part-time in Paver Class in Year 6, when Mrs Pry starts her maternity leave in early October
- Miss Hannah Brazeley will be a permanent, full-time teacher in Year 3
- Mr Daniel Briscoe, is joining the teaching team in Year 5
- Miss Libby Bastinai will be teaching in Year 4
- Miss Emma Bulford will be teaching in Year 2

In addition, Mrs Alice Goode, although already part of our Priory Rise team, is returning from her maternity leave to teach part time in Year 6.

We are also delighted to inform everyone that Miss Corrine Dixon has been successfully appointed as Year Leader in Year 3 and Miss Becky Brown is taking on the responsibility of Year Leader in Year One as Mrs Mortimer-Fox in on maternity leave.

We look forward to welcoming all these teachers into their new roles at the beginning of the new term.

In addition to news of our teaching staff, we have a number of changes to the support staff in school.

- Miss Jolie Hodgkins is leaving us to take up a place on a teacher training course – how exciting!
- Mr Duncan McFarlane has decided it is time for him to retire – and so will be a man of leisure in the autumn term
- Miss Ayla Craig has secured a new position in another school as a classroom teaching assistant.

We have recently completed a round of recruitment in order to fill these positions in school, and we are delighted to report that:

- Miss Victoria Stanton will be moving from her position as 1:1 teaching assistant and will be a classroom teaching assistant
- Mrs Tracy Osborn will be moving from her position as 1:1 teaching assistant and will be a classroom teaching assistant
- Mrs Victoria Gillespie will be moving from her position as 1:1 teaching assistant and will be one of our nursery nurses, working in the school nursery
- Mrs Karen Davies will be moving from her position as lunchtime supervisor to work as a 1:1 teaching assistant

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- Ms Hannah Laight will be moving from her position as lunchtime supervisor to work as a 1:1 teaching assistant.

And if all that news was not exciting enough, Miss Cunningham will return to school in September known as Mrs Willison – as she is getting married in the summer break!

Wow! What a lot of exciting news! We are delighted with our new appointments for September and following some very last-minute changes – this week – we now have vacancies for lunchtime supervisors and 1:1 teaching assistants at the school. Please look on our school website for details if this would be of interest to you – or if you know of anyone who may be interested in working in these positions at our wonderful school, with our amazing children.

### **Parent Survey**

Many thanks to parents who completed our most recent staff survey – your responses are really valuable and important to us. During the summer break, I will be analysing the outcomes of this survey and putting together our responses. I will share this with you all early in the autumn term.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to share their responses – we will use these to inform our provision in the coming year. Thank you!

### **Achievement**

We are so very pleased with the achievement of children across the school. The children have done extremely well and this is a credit to the dedication and hard work of the children, the staff and our amazing families, particularly as we have encountered some major challenges as a result of the pandemic. At one point in the school year, we were working on average, with 16 members of staff absent on a daily basis! At the moment, we do not have the national data comparisons for the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, but we will of course let you have these as soon as they are published. In the meantime, we thought you might like to have the headlines which are as follows:



### **Foundation Stage**

In the Foundation Stage, 80% of children achieved their Early Learning Goals in all areas. This is very good and represents very positive achievements for our children.

Children have achieved well throughout all of the areas of learning and we are proud of the progress that our youngest children in the school have made. Children in Nursery have also made great progress and are well prepared for starting school this September.

This demonstrates that children at Priory Rise are enjoying a wonderful start at school - we continue to be delighted with the fabulous provision in our Foundation Stage.

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## Year 1 Phonics

In the Year 1 phonics screening test 88% of children achieved the expected standard.

## Key Stage 1

	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined – children who have achieved in all areas
<b>At Expectations or above</b>	88%	75%	86%	70%
<b>Working at Greater Depth</b>	26%	17%	37%	14%

In addition, 100% of children in Year 2 have now met the KS1 phonics required standard.

We are delighted with these outcomes and know that the children have made consistently good progress, despite the challenges of the past 2 years. As you can see, these are wonderful results.

## Key Stage 2

	Reading	Writing	Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation	Maths	Reading, Writing and Maths Combined
<b>Priory Rise</b>	<b>84%</b> <b>(53% Greater Depth)</b>	<b>78%</b> <b>(30% Greater Depth)</b>	<b>90%</b> <b>(63% Greater Depth)</b>	<b>90%</b> <b>(46% Greater Depth)</b>	<b>73%</b> <b>(22% Greater Depth)</b>
<b>National (Greater Depth not yet published)</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Priory Rise % above National</b>	<b>+10%</b>	<b>+9%</b>	<b>+18%</b>	<b>+19%</b>	<b>+14%</b>

We carefully track and monitor the progress and achievement of children in all year groups across the school and we continue to be very pleased with the outcomes this year. Despite some huge challenges, it has been an incredibly positive year, where the staff team has embraced each new hurdle with incredible resilience and optimism. Thank you to our wonderful families for your encouragement and hard work in supporting your children and the school throughout the whole year.

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## School Uniform Reminders



As we are now at the end of the school year, please can I remind all our families that as part of our school PE uniform, children should wear **wholly black trainers**. These are easy to find at reasonable prices online and in shops. If you are thinking of buying new trainers for your child's PE kit across the summer holidays, please bear this in mind and avoid any subsequent difficult conversation about this.

Many thanks to everyone in advance for supporting us in keeping our school uniform standards high and children wearing all aspects of their school uniform with pride.

## Ruby Tuesday – many thanks



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our very own 'Ruby Tuesday', which took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, when children came to school in



their own clothes along with a donation to support these excellent

and significant charities. In addition, our Year 6 children hosted their own bake sale out of the front of school at the end of the school day. We are delighted to report that a total of £1555.89 was raised from this event, to share equally between the two charities – the Helen and Douglas House and Ronald McDonald House.

Many thanks to all our families who baked and bought cakes and to our Year 6 children who drove this brilliant and worthwhile event. Wonderful!

## Year 3 and Year 2 Showcase Assemblies

The children have been enjoying sharing their showcase assemblies with families – sharing their huge talents and a range of items across the curriculum. In the last few weeks, we have seen the Year 2 and the Year 3 children present their showcases, sharing a whole host of songs, readings and dramas as part of their showcase assemblies.

What truly excellent presentations and an absolute joy to watch! I cannot express how proud we all are of the children who took part and their excellent contributions. It was an absolute pleasure to see them shine, whilst welcoming so many of our families back into school. Many thanks to our wonderful families who supported these events for our children.

## Theme week for the first week back - Explorers and Adventurers



To begin the new academic year, throughout the school we will be using the theme of 'Explorers and Adventurers' as a focus for our learning for the first week of the new term. In addition, it has become a tradition at Priory Rise to have a dress up day at the end

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of our first week back, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, we will be dressing up as explorers or adventurers – or anything that is related to this topic that you can think of.

Our Foundation children will be having their own ‘Explorers and Adventurers’ dress-up day later in the term – so look out for this too!

Be as creative as you wish!

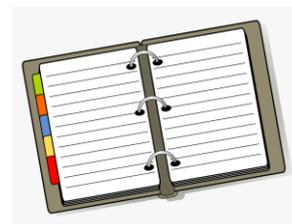
### **Dates for the Diary:**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Staff training days

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September– welcoming children back into school

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Theme week in school – Explorers and Adventurers

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Dress Up Day – Explorers and Adventurers theme



### **And Finally...**

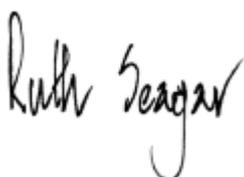
What an amazing year at Priory Rise – our 14<sup>th</sup> as a school! The school continues to flourish and develop and so much of the success is down to the partnership between families and the school.

May I take this opportunity to express my huge thanks to all our staff for their incredible hard work during the course of the year – they are all truly wonderful and it is the greatest privilege to work with such an amazing team of dedicated, hard-working professionals, who have the best interests of the children at the heart of everything that they do. Thank you so very much for your inordinate hard work and endless passion for the work with our wonderful young people.

I would also like to wish all of our Year 6 leavers all the very best in the next stage of their education – good luck all of you and thank you for all of your huge contributions to the school. You will be greatly missed!

And finally, to all of our friends and families, I wish you the very best for a truly fabulous summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming our children back to Priory Rise on **Monday 5th September!**

Best regards and all the very best wishes,



Ruth Seagar

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