



## Value of the Month: Peace

**Dear Parents/Friends,**

Wow! This is our last newsletter of 2017 and what a fantastic year we've had. Welcoming our new Priory Risers and watching our Year 6s move on to their secondary schools. This final half-term of 2017 has been particularly uplifting with our children's songs, assemblies, performances which we really hope that you've enjoyed. As well, of course, as our amazing KS2 Pantomime – our first ever – which proved to be a real hit - oh yes it was!! Well done to everybody involved for all the hard work (and fun!) – it really paid off. We look forward to an equally wonderful 2018!



**Christmas!**



### Performances

Gosh! What a truly talented bunch our Priory Risers are! Thank you to our children and staff who have worked so hard to deliver the most wonderful performances, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Thanks also to everyone who came to support the children.

### Christmas Card Competition



Huge congratulations to the winners of our 'Design our Christmas Card' competition. The school has posted the

winning cards out to wish the best of the Christmas season to regular suppliers and friends of the school and have had some really great feedback. Congratulations to:

- **Isaa in Beetles Class in Foundation 2**
- **Katherine in McKee class in Key Stage 1**
- **Sophie in Morpurgo class in Lower Key Stage 2**
- **Stephanie in Horowitz class and Kyra in Blackman class Upper Key Stage 2**

### Christmas Willen Hospice Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Willen Hospice collection following our Christmas performances. We are delighted to report that we have now collected a huge total of **£1135.30**. Thank you all for your generosity and kindness in supporting this most worthwhile charity. Wonderful!

### Christmas Parties



Our children looked fabulous in their Christmas jumpers and festive outfits and we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas 'sing-a-long' where Santa visited and gave out presents to all the classes across the school. In addition, children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunch and parties. During this very busy festive period, our children have continued to work very hard

with their learning and thoroughly deserved their festive celebrations. Well done everyone!

### Vision and Values

Our children have made some wonderful pieces of work for this month's value. They have really thought about the meaning and importance of 'Peace' and what it means to them. Well done children!



In addition, 30 of our Year 6 pupils have applied and been successful in their interviews to become 'Restorative Leaders' across the school. They have all been rigorously trained by Ms Gamble, who works for the Restorative Foundation for part of her week, as well as a teacher at Priory Rise in Year 2. The successful candidates will be starting their work across the school in January, supporting our 'restorative' agenda.

Huge congratulations to all of our Year 6 children who completed excellent applications and conducted themselves impeccably in their interviews. We are so very proud of you all.

### Friends of Priory Rise



Thank you so much for your generous donations and support of our Christmas Fair and for everyone involved in making it such a huge success. Whilst we are still not quite clear of the total raised, as all the receipts for outgoings have not been rectified, we know that we have made a significant sum. This money will go towards new equipment for our children. We are truly grateful.

### Staffing News

Congratulations to Mark Gibbs and Mimi Kitty who will be our Early Bird and Night Owls Play Leader and Deputy Play Leader respectively, from January 2018. We are delighted in these appointments, which we feel will add strength and clear leadership to our extended care.

### New 'Active Risers' Club

We are busy launching a new initiative - our early morning 'Active Risers' club - starting on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**. This club is to be run by Mr Neal and Mr Smyth



from 8am to 8.30 every morning for the next term, to support our 'fit and active' agenda, where children will be involved in a wide range of multi-sports activities. There are still a few places left if your child would like to take up a place on any of the following days:

- Monday – Years 5 and 6
- Tuesday – Years 3 and 4
- Wednesday – Years 5 and 6
- Thursday – Years 3 and 4

All places are filled for the Friday morning sessions. If you would like your child to take up a place on any of the above sessions, please contact the school office.

### Lost Property



All lost property has been displayed in the courtyard and large playground over the last week. Our mound of unclaimed items is huge!

We will be displaying these again for the three days in the first week back in January.

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Anything that is not claimed by the 5<sup>th</sup> January will be disposed of as we do not have the facilities to store these items.

Please make sure that **ALL your** child's uniform/coats etc are **NAMED**. We find so many items that are unnamed and therefore cannot return to children. Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

### Dates for Your Diary

Please see below a number of key dates for the new Spring term.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 - School re-opens for Spring 1 term
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January – Honeybees “Come Dine with Us!”
- 9<sup>th</sup> January 6:00 pm – SATs meeting for KS1 Parents
- 9<sup>th</sup> January 7:00 pm – SATs meeting for KS2 Parents
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January – Fireflies “Come Dine with Us!”
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January – Beetles “Come Dine with Us!”
- 7<sup>th</sup> February 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm – Parents’ Evening
- 8<sup>th</sup> February – 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Parents’ Evening

Very occasionally, due to unexpected circumstances, we have to make changes to these dates. We will always let you know of any changes via ParentMail and post these on the school website.

### NSPCC Online Safety Talk



Thank you to those of you who came to our online safety talk which was

arranged by Mrs Dobson and Mr Brown and presented by the NSPCC. Those who attended told us there was a lot of useful information and helpful websites shared. You can find out this information on our school website: [http://www.prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk/website/on-line\\_safety/286374](http://www.prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk/website/on-line_safety/286374)

### Food Bank Reverse Advent Calendar

Many thanks, to everyone who contributed to our ‘Reverse Advent Calendar’. The Student Council has been so fired up by their visits to the Food Bank and by the valuable work that they provide. This morning they were happy to load up three whole trolley loads of goodies to send off the Food Bank and wanted to express their great thanks to all families and friends who have generously donated items to be sent off.

Thank you all so much.

### Sporting Activities

We are very proud of our Year 3/4 Basketball team who won silver medals at the MKSSP Finals. Well done to the team of Sam D, Charlie H, Alfie H, Jude, Kyle B, Pranya, Chloe S, Jasmine and Rajvi. The team has now managed to qualify for the Buckinghamshire School County Games. We wish them luck!



Well done also to our Year 5/6 Football team who have played their third, fourth and fifth matches of the season, resulting in a win, draw and another win in the fifth match with Man of the Match, Tomiwa, scoring the winning goal with virtually the last kick of the

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game. Mr Smyth and Mr Neal particularly commented on the excellent teamwork and hard work of the whole team! Fabulous.

**And finally...**

I would like to thank all of our friends and families for the incredible support to our school - this year in particular. We truly believe we have a wonderful school community: pupils, staff, parents, friends and everyone who gets involved.

We are always striving to move forwards and continually improve, in our unstinting drive to provide the absolute best for our children.

This is not possible without the support of families and friends. Thank you so very much. May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and joyful holiday – a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We all look forward to welcoming our children back and seeing you all again in 2018!

Warmest regards,



Ruth Seagar

