



Value of the Month: Forgiveness

Dear Parents/Friends,

With Christmas fast approaching, it is a busy time in school with preparation for assemblies, our KS2 Pantomime and of course our Christmas Fair. We look forward to welcoming our Parents and Carers to these events!

Christmas Performances

We have updated some dates and times of our Christmas performances to ensure that all of our parents get an opportunity to watch their children perform. Please see the Dates for Your Diary section below.

Dates for Your Diary

Please see below a number of key dates for this term.

- 23rd November 9:30 am – School Nurse Clinic
- 24th November - Non Uniform day in aid of the Christmas Fair
- 29th November 2:00 pm – NSPCC Online Safety Talk
- 1st December 3:30 pm – Christmas Fair
- 4th December 9:45 am – Prospective Parents Tour
- 5th December 9:15 am and 2:30 pm – Foundation Stage Christmas songs

- 6th December 9:15 am – KS1 Christmas Assembly (Year 1 Parents invited)
- 7th December 9:15 am – KS1 Christmas Assembly (Year 2 Parents invited)
- 8th December 9:15 am and 2:30 pm – Nursery Christmas Songs
- 12th December 6:30 pm – KS2 Pantomime
- 13th December 6:30 pm – KS2 Pantomime
- 14th December – Christmas lunch and parties (Christmas Jumper Day)
- 15th December – Break for Christmas holiday

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.

Children in Need



Our children (and staff!) were a sea of colour today to help in supporting Children in Need. Thanks to your generosity, we managed to raise an amazing **£717** for this amazing charity. Thank you.

Friends of Priory Rise

Thank you to the 'Friends', parent helpers and staff who volunteered their help to ensure that our recent Fireworks Night went with a 'bang'! We have received such great feedback on what a lovely evening it was, and of course, it wouldn't be possible without all of the hard work and preparation that goes into it.

We also look forward to our school Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December at 3.30-5.30pm. Thank you for all your donations so far and don't forget, if you'd like to volunteer to help or donate any prizes, please contact Sarah in the school office.

Phonics and Maths Evenings



Thank you to all of you who attended our recent sessions on Phonics and Maths - both sessions were really well attended. We hope this gave you some really useful insights into our methods of teaching our wonderful children, which can really reinforce learning at home.

Thank you to all our staff who put lots of hard work into hosting/presenting these events.



Lettings

We receive many enquiries about hiring out our halls and premises. Currently we can accept bookings made for regular hire Monday-Fridays, e.g. Brownies or Beaver groups etc. For more information on rates or to book, please contact the School Finance team.

You may have already seen that Premier Sport will be providing a sports camp at Priory Rise for the week beginning 18th December. We have a longstanding relationship with Premier Sport as Mr Shirley, who is their area manager, was once Sports coach here at Priory Rise. We feel sure that the provision for this camp – and there are more planned for some of the holidays for the rest of the school year – will be of the greatest quality and that this will prove to be a success. If you would like to book children onto this camp, please contact www.premier-education.com.

The importance of regular school attendance

It is the time of year when we look at the patterns of attendance of our pupils.

Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. Children who frequently miss school often fall behind and there is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results. For example, only 12% of pupils with below 80% school attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*-

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C, including English and Maths, at secondary school compared to 68% for pupils with attendance greater than 95%.

As children get older, young people who are frequently absent from school are more likely to become involved in, or be a victim of crime and anti-social behaviour.

At Priory Rise, we want to encourage our young people to develop positive habits about attendance, so that this becomes embedded when they grow older.

Tips for good school attendance

- Good habits start early in life, so even before your child starts school, establish good routines, such as reading before bedtime and going to bed on time
- If your child is off school, you must let the school know why and tell them when they can expect your child back
- Make all appointments for the doctor, dentist, optician etc. after school hours or during the school holidays where possible
- Take an active interest in your child's school work and offer support with homework
- Attend parents' evenings to discuss your child's progress
- Make sure your child understands the benefits of regular attendance at school
- Don't let your child stay off school for a minor ailment
- Take all holidays during the school holiday periods

School Maintenance



We are currently seeking strong individuals who would be able to help dismantle a large metal shed at school.

We also require anyone with DIY skills who would be able to assist on an ad hoc basis with some minor repairs around the school. And we do make a mean cup of coffee!!

In both instances, please speak to the School Finance team or the School Caretaker, Mrs Claudine Wood if you can help.

School Council

Our members of the School Council have been lucky enough to visit the Food Bank to see how donations, such as those we collected for Harvest, are made to those families who are most in need. Thank you to Mrs Colvin and Mrs Benham-Smith for taking the children on such a worthwhile visit.

Enterprise Week

We start the week on Monday next week with our 'Dragon's Den' assembly, where each year group presents their imaginative ideas for how they would like to make money at our upcoming Christmas Fair. Children will be pitching their ideas to members of our 'Friends of Priory Rise' who will decide on whether to invest money into the children's ideas. Children

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need to have worked out their costings and marketing strategies and will then spend some time making their items to sell. Look out for the children's stall at the Christmas Fair.

Sporting Activities

It has been a bumper few weeks for our children playing sports. On Saturday 4th November, a number of our children were involved in the Cross Country Championships. Thank you to those children, parents and staff who gave up their time on a Saturday to represent our school so marvellously.

The children ran with pride and great determination and achieved some wonderful results - see below by category;

Junior Girls - 10th place
Junior Boys - 6th place
Senior Girls – 6th place
Senior Boys – 14th place

The Cross Country team came 11th overall in the Ultra Schools category.

Well done to Evie, Sienna, Kyra, Elizabeth, Grace, Chloe, Samuel, Theo, Anish, Timi, Joe, Bryan, Stephanie, Srishti, Phoebe, Natasha, N'dea, Ben S, Adam and Ben T.

Our Years 5/6 Basketball team also played in their qualifying event, coming 5th. Well played Caitlin, Ciara, Jude, Amelie, Josh, Tyler, Ellie and our top points scorer Tomiwa.

Brianna, Lily, Isabel, Thomas, Jack and Shane played Boccia and curling matches at Bletchley College. The team had lots of fun and scored many points for the school – well done!

The Years 5/6 Boys Football team opened up their League campaign with a draw and a narrow loss. The Man of the Match award went to George in the first game and Keon in the second game – great effort boys!

Well done to all of our children in these sporting events - you truly are wonderful Priory Risers!

Staffing News

We extend a warm welcome to Mr Liam Pocock, who is a new member of our site team and Miss Lucy Ashby who has recently joined the Priory Rise Foundation Stage team as a teaching assistant. We have also appointed Mrs Paola Maitilasso to work as a part time teaching assistant in the mornings in Year 5 and Mrs Jen O'Regan to work in the afternoons in Foundation Stage. We are delighted to welcome these new members into our Priory Rise family. In addition, our wonderful Mrs Claudine Wood has recently become a welcome addition to the Night Owls team.

Many congratulations to Miss Natasha Burns who has welcomed a beautiful baby girl into her family.



We wish her all the very best as she spends precious time with her growing family at this time.

And finally...

This is such a busy half-term in our wonderful school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. We look forward to you joining us later in the term at one of our Christmas celebrations.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Seagar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Ruth Seagar