



2022 - 2023 Edition Two (25.11.2022)

Where is time going?

Term one completed and already halfway through term two. Time seems to be flying and dare I say it, Christmas will be on us all before we know it. It's been a packed start to the year with Harvest Festival, Bonfire stories, fantastic trips to Westonbirt, Caerleon Roman Museum, Harry Potter World and The Big Pit. Alongside visits from the Space Dome, Dan-Tastic and the Explorer Dome, not to mention our annual residential trip to Morfa Bay in West Wales, with still a visit to

the Pantomime planned before Christmas. All these activities make a huge difference to the children's learning, helping to make things as real as possible and make the learning opportunities so much more powerful and memorable for the children. Planning the learning around so many experiences is certainly something that makes Priestley stand out. Thank you for your ongoing support with this, I appreciate pennies are extremely tight now, for all of us. I'm looking forward to an equally packed timetable after Christmas.

Trips

As I mentioned above, trips are something that helps make Priestley stand out and provide the children with so many different experiences that they can use back in the classroom. Memories and experiences, that we as a school hold dear and would desperately like to continue with going forwards. We are extremely lucky to have staff in school that are happy to put in the extra work to organise and run the trips. We are all aware that finances are stretched at the moment, which is why as a school, we have been able to put some money aside to help subsidise the costs, although this doesn't cover everything. Even a small contribution helps us to continue to make these memories happen. We also require additional support on the day, please volunteer if you can, because without enough adults we will be unable to continue.

Morfa Bay

What a week! We saw the sun and blue skies every day. Although chilly, certainly the driest week I can remember. As usual, the children got stuck into activities as soon as they arrived on Monday lunchtime. Body Boarding, Abseiling, Climbing Wall, Zip Wire, Crate Stacking, Rock Pooling, Mountain Biking as well as the now legendary, Morfa Assault Course. So much to cram into just a few days. As usual, the children did us proud, Priestley & Proud. These residentials, be it the Yr5/6 Morfa Bay or the Yr3/4 Skerne Lodge are amazing experiences that will not only develop responsibility and independence, but also provide memories that will stick in the children's mind well into their future.

Skern Lodge

Just a quick reminder about the Year 3 and 4 Skern Lodge residential trip in April; we still have places available. We require the completed consent form and deposit to be paid (on ParentPay) by Monday 5 December please. The perfect Christmas present.

School Budgets

I'm sure you've all read a lot in the news around how schools are struggling to make ends meet and are needing to make some quite drastic changes in some cases. Currently as far as Priestley goes, like everyone else, we are going to need to cut our cloth accordingly and looking forward there maybe a few tweaks here and there that we will need to make. Though, rest assured, our priority to ensure that the day-to-day life of the children and the experiences they enjoy at Priestley (where at all possible) are not compromised and any changes remain minor ones.

Reporting Absence

Please can I remind everyone that if you are letting the school know about why your child is absent, that you do so by leaving a telephone message, please do not use the ask@ email as the school office do not access these messages. The ask@ email address is for queries and questions with regards to the children's learning and is accessed by the school's Senior Leadership Team.

Non-Uniform Day - 2 December

We will be requesting a chocolate donation for our non-uniform day. Donations will be used for our chocolate hampers at the Christmas Fair.

Christmas Week

We will enjoy a week of activities including Nativities, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and no doubt some fun sessions in and around the classrooms. As usual, have a 1.30 pm early finish on Friday 16 December.

Monday 12 Dec	Tuesday 13 Dec	Wednesday 14 Dec	Thursday 15 Dec	Fri 16 Dec
Church Service Whole school attending	Reception Nativity 9.15 am	Year One Nativity 9.15 am	Christmas Jumper/Top day	
		Christmas Fair (After School)	Christmas Dinner Day	Early Finish 1.30 pm

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner must be ordered on your child's ParentPay account. Please select **Thursday, 15 December** from the menus and choose **Main** or **Veg**. Do not worry that the choices shown are not the Christmas menu, this will be substituted on the day. **ORDERS MUST BE COMPLETED BY MONDAY 5 DECEMBER. Please complete on time as no late orders can be accepted, the ParentPay system will not allow bookings after this date. IF YOU REQUIRE A GLUTEN FREE MEAL – Order as normal on ParentPay AND email the office on the following address to advise. admin@priestley.wilts.sch.uk IF THIS IS NOT DONE, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE A GLUTEN FREE MEAL**

Children in Need

Even in these difficult times you have outdone yourselves. As a school we raised £199 this year. THANK YOU, PRIESTLEY & PROUD.

Bikes & Scooters

Although it is great to see the children enjoying their journey to school, can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that although we will always do our best to look after the bikes and scooters, they are parked in the bike shed at your own risk. Also, can I remind everyone that all bikes and scooters should be dismantled and pushed when on school premises, there are far too many people around to be able to ride them safely on the school site at the beginning and end of the day.

The Weather

I think we have probably seen the last of the good weather for a while so please can I ask that you make sure your child comes to school with a coat.

Admissions September 2023

Just a reminder for the parents of pre-school children. You need to apply for a primary school place by midnight on 15 January 2023.

Outdoor P.E. Kits

Participation in P.E. is hugely important for the development of health, fitness, and wider skills for learning such as resilience and collaboration. P.E kits should be brought into school on your child's PE day and taken home at the end of the day. Please check with your child's teacher what days their kit will be needed in school. Please ensure your child's P.E. kit follows the school uniform rules and all clothing and shoes still fit. Following guidelines, **ALL** P.E. sessions are being practiced outside. So, a dark pair of jogging/long trousers, jumper or hooded top and trainers are necessary as the weather gets colder.

Dates

Friday 16 December – Last day of term, early finish 1.30 pm.

Tuesday 3 January 2023 – TD Day – School Closed

Wednesday 4 January - First day back – Term 3

Thursday 19 January – Buggy Malone Theatre Trip – (Years 3-6)

Friday 10 February – Last day of Term 3

Monday 20 February – Back to School – Term 4

Priestley & Proud

A Marsh-Ballard

Mr Marsh-Ballard