



2021 - 2022 Edition Two (14.10.2021)

Term One

Wow, where did that go??? We now find ourselves approaching the end of the first term of the year. So far, so good, we have not been disrupted too much by Covid, although numbers of those needing to isolate are beginning to currently rise slightly. There has however, been an incredible amount of flu & sickness being passed around. Let's keep washing our hands and maintaining a little distance please!!! With Term Two looming we can

look forward to the return of the Yr5/6 Morfa Bay Residential & Bonfire Stories as well as a Phonic assessment for the Year Two pupils. That the Government have so generously insisted that we undertake before we get to start to think about the 'C' word and what that might look like this year at school. More news on that when we get into next term.

Covid

I'm sure I do not need to remind everyone that it is still well and truly amongst us, so thank you for bearing with us. As a school will continue to be cautious although will begin to unwind a little more during Term Two. Where possible we will still try and maintain the three bubbles in school in order to minimise any possibility of transmission across the whole school. As you will see from the attached letter from Wiltshire Council, our slightly more cautious approach has been the correct decision and we will continue with this approach for the time being. We will also continue with the staggered starts, breaks, lunchtimes and finish times. However, we will be unfencing the play equipment in the playgrounds and sending reading books home again after half term.

With regards to the play equipment, please can I take this opportunity to remind you that you are responsible for your children before and after school. I must encourage you to ensure the equipment is used safely during these times please. I certainly wasn't impressed the other day when I looked out of a window to see a parent helping a child up on top of the climbing wall (a good 6ft up) on the playground to balance!!!!

We have spent a considerable amount of money over the past 18 months replenishing our stocks of reading books across the school. Please can we ensure that we look after them so everyone can enjoy them for years to come. You will also be receiving a 'Reading Diary' for us to keep a record of the children's reading. The way school budgets are looking currently it might be a while before we will be able to spend a similar amount again.

With the increasing numbers of us at school needing to isolate we have decided to hold off with the after-school clubs for Term Two. Hopefully we will be able to roll these out in Term Three.

The bike sheds will be open again after half term, but can I just take this opportunity to remind everyone that no one, school age or preschool age should be riding bikes or scooters on the school premises at any time please.

Although I am extremely pleased that some of our children can't wait to get into school can I remind everyone to try and keep to the start times as much as possible please. We certainly should not be seeing children on the playground before 8.20am. Thank you

Trips

It's been great to our termly trips and visitor programme back up and running again. It proved to be a fantastic support to the learning that was taking place in the classrooms back before the first lockdown. Please can I ask that you support us in providing these valuable learning experiences by continuing to contribute and joining us on the day, without enough support we might not be able to provide the experience. If you are free to help out on a different class trip to that of your child, then please feel free to offer your services

Yr3/4 Skerne Lodge Residential

The letter has gone out with all the relevant information, having been to visit the centre I can assure everyone of an experience similar to the fantastic few days we traditionally spent in Llansteffan. We are extremely lucky at Priestley in that we have so many staff members willing to give up their own time to ensure we can offer the children memorable experiences that they will hold with them for many years to come. Any questions please email them in to ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk

Yr5/6 Morfa Bay Residential

It's nearly here, we've only been waiting two years!!!! We will be getting the children together before half term to allay any fears and answer any questions they may have. Any questions with regards to kit etc, please email them in to ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk

Water Bottles

Please can we send only water please, I have noticed varying different colours appearing in water bottles!!!! No juice or squash please.

School Uniform

A massive part of being Priestley & Proud is wearing the team colours. I appreciate costs are currently rising but it doesn't cost much to at least maintain the school colours. There have been varying colour hoodies and trainers creeping in this term. We will be speaking to the children next term and encouraging them to make sure they are all wearing the team colours.

Parents Evening

Thank you, another great turn out. I hope you found it helpful to touch base with your child's class teacher.

Car Park

Despite locking the gates at the start and end of the day I have noticed traffic still moving on the site whilst waiting for the gates to be opened. I will be reminding the Children's Centre & Appletree to remind their parents that no traffic should be moving during the times the gates are locked.

Dates

Wednesday 20th October – Last day of term.

Thursday 21st – Sunday 31st November – School Holiday

Monday 1st November – Back to School!!!!

Tuesday 2nd November – Individual Photographs

Thursday 4th November – Bonfire Stories

Monday 8th – Friday 12th November – Yr. 5 & 6 Morfa Bay Residential Trip

Tuesday 23rd November - EYFS Hawk Conservancy Trip

Tuesday 16th November – Yr. 3 & 4 Stonehenge Trip

Thursday 18th November - KS1 Hawk Conservancy Trip

Tuesday 23rd November – Yr. 5 & 6 Chepstow Castle Trip

Friday 3rd December – TD Day

Friday 17th December – Last day of term, 1pm finish.

Priestley & Proud

A Marsh-Ballard

Mr Marsh-Ballard