



2023 - 2024 Edition Two (13.10.2023)

Term One

Time flies when you're having fun. We now find ourselves approaching the end of the first term of the school year and what a busy term it was. Parents Evening, two 'Join your Child in School' mornings, a trip or visitor for everyone and our Harvest Festivals to look forward to next week (any donations please take to your child's class). In Term Two, we can look forward to Bonfire Stories, a Nativity production, more trips and visitors including a visit from a Pantomime Company for KS1 & EYFS pupils, as well as a personal highlight for me, the

annual Yr5/6 Morfa Bay Residential Trip. We are keen to keep the diary full of fun and fantastic experiences for the children to bring back into the classroom and create memories that will stay with them. However, the last time I checked we only have around a 60% contribution rate which will not be enough going forward. I appreciate every penny counts at the moment, but even a part contribution is better than no contribution at all. Thankyou.

Join Your Child in School Sessions

It was great to see so many of you in school over the past couple of Monday mornings, I hope you not only enjoyed the time spent with your child but also found the information sessions useful as well. I look forward to seeing more of you around the school for our Priestley & Proud and Join Your Child in school mornings later in the year.

Attendance

As you have probably gleaned from the news, there is a big push from the Department for Education with regards to attendance. So, let's continue to work together to ensure that the children of Priestley do not miss out on their education because they are not here! With the increasing need to safeguard the children within our community, please find below a reminder of what to do if you child is off poorly. This information can also be found on the school website.

Punctuality

In each class, the teacher takes a register at 8.30 am. The register is taken twice a day. If your child arrives after the register has been closed at 8.50 am, your child is marked as being 'late after the registers are closed.' The Local Authority recognise this as an unauthorised absent mark. Sustained lateness can result in prosecution, so we ask parents who are having difficulty with morning routines to speak to the school.

Reporting Absence

At Priestley, parents/carers are expected to contact the school office before 8.30 am. and leave a message on the school answer machine and advise why their child will not be attending school, and how long they expect their child to be absent.

*If parents/carers do not inform the school of their child's absence a text will be sent out requesting that they contact the school office and advise why their child is not in school. This text will be sent by 9.30 am. We do expect a call **each** morning that your child is absent from school.*

If the school does not receive a reply by 10.30 am, we will then attempt to phone the parent. If the school cannot make contact, other contact phone numbers for the child provided will be attempted.

At this point, should the school still have no contact it will be recorded on the school's safeguarding concern system, due to the fact that a legal requirement has not been fulfilled and a child is potentially missing.

This is also the point where the designated safeguarding team at school will consider referring the potential missing child to MASH/ Social Care/Police.

Term Time Holidays

At Priestley Primary School the Governors do not approve any holidays during term time. Therefore, parents are requested not to take their child on holiday during term time as this has a proven, measurable impact upon their performance.

So far, our Termly Attendance Winners have been:

Week 3 = Teal Week 4 = Teal Week 5 = Pufflings Week 6 – we'll have to wait & see!

Yr 3/4 Skern Lodge Residential - <https://www.skernlodge.com/>

The letter has gone out with all the relevant information regarding the Skern Lodge residential for Years 3 and 4. Having been twice now, I can assure everyone of an amazing few days away, so if you are looking for that special Christmas present then look no further. 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. Ones that they will hold with them for many years to come. Any questions please email them in to ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk

Yr 5/6 Morfa Bay Residential - <https://www.morfabay.com/>

It's nearly here. We managed to meet with some of the parents of children going this week and wetted the children's appetite further. We will be getting the children together for a final chat after half term to alleviate 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

The School Gate

Please, please can we all be a little 'Spikey' and show some 'Respect for All'. Some of the choices made when parking around the school gate at the beginning and end of the school day are bordering on ridiculous. We would like to remind you that directly across the road from the school gate there are actually 'double yellow' lines which means that cars should not park along the road. This is a school, with a lot of children that have the right to be able to cross the road safely without having to negotiate a number of vehicles parked, that are not giving much thought for other's safety. Please **DO NOT** park in front of the locked gates either. We must leave these clear at all times for emergency access.

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. Despite the rising costs, I have been heartened to see everyone return looking smart. Let's keep this up, below is a little reminder, it can be found of the school website.

Skirts, Dresses & Trousers:

Grey, Navy Blue or black knee length skirt or pinafore with the option of blue and white gingham dresses in the warmer weather.

Grey or black trousers with the option of short trousers (in grey or black) in the warmer weather. Please no black jeans or leggings.

Navy Blue School Sweatshirt / Cardigan / Fleece:

We would like the children to sport the Priestley logo, however, recognise the possible cost in doing so. Therefore, a sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece will suffice. As with everything, please can we ensure your child's name is written clearly on the label.

Socks / Tights:

Socks can be white, black, navy blue or grey. Tights can be white, black, navy blue or grey.

Footwear:

Only sensible school shoes in black, brown or navy with 'flat' heels (No sandals please) Boots (with flat heels) can be worn in place of shoes, when the weather is particularly poor. For those children who have yet to master tying up shoelaces we would advise that they wear shoes with Velcro to help them with their independence.

PE Kit:

It is important that the children still maintain high standards of dress when doing PE, which is also fit for purpose. Plimsolls, daps or trainers, plain dark blue or black shorts, plain house-coloured T-shirts and dark tracksuits for colder weather.

NB: when your child is assigned to a house, they will need a T Shirt to match that house:

Bowood – Green, Gases – White, Oxygen – Blue and Duck - Yellow. These do not have to have the Priestley logo on, although they are available at Scholars with the logo.

Please no cropped tops, basketball/ football shirts or hot pants. If a child is dressed inappropriately for P.E. they will be asked to wear spare kit.

Hair Styles:

In line with the high standards of dress and presentation at Priestley Primary School, pupils are expected to have appropriate hair styles and colours. Therefore, we encourage parents to ensure that their children's hair is smart, practical and suitable for school. Coloured hair or shaved hair with razored patterns and designs is not appropriate during term time.

Jewellery/Make-up:

Only wrist watches and **small studs for earrings** only, NO other jewellery, rings or larger hooped earrings etc. as these create a potential Health & Safety issue. No smart watches as these present a potential safeguarding issue and NO make - up please.

Parents Evening

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

Dates

Monday 16 October – EYFS & KS1 Harvest Assembly @ 2.00 pm
Tuesday 17 October – KS2 Harvest Assembly @ 2.10 pm
Wednesday 18 October - Last day of Term 1
Monday 30 October – First day of Term 2
Thursday 2 November – Bonfire Stories
Monday 6 – Friday 10 November – Yr5/6 Morfa Bay Residential Trip
Friday 17 November – Children in Need
Monday 20 November – Yr 5 & 6 Trip to Chepstow Castle
Tuesday 21 November – Yr 1 & 2 Trip to Westonbirt Arboretum
Tuesday 21 November – Book Fair in School
Wednesday 22 November – Yr 3 & 4 Trip to Stonehenge
Thursday 23 November – Reception Visit to Calne Library
Thursday 24 November – Individual Photographs
Tuesday 12 December – EYFS Nativity
Friday 15 December – Join your Child in School / Priestley & Proud afternoon
Tuesday 19 December – Christmas Dinner Day
Wednesday 20 December – Break up for Christmas
Thursday 4 & 5 January 2024 – Training Days
Monday 8 January – All Children Back in School 8.30 am

Priestley & Proud

A Marsh-Ballard

Mr Marsh-Ballard