



Priestley Primary School



Priestley and Proud

**Stay
Focused**





Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and welcome you to Priestley Primary School. I am Andrew Marsh-Ballard and have been Headteacher here at Priestley since September 2005. Whether your child is starting school, or is transferring from elsewhere, they will be joining the school team at an exciting time in its history.

Our aim at Priestley is to help create communicative, competent, confident young people who are more than ready for the next challenge in their educational journey. Although we strive to raise academic standards, we also feel that it is vitally important not to lose sight of the child as an individual which was recognised by Ofsted 2018.

'The school is highly inclusive, and its successes demonstrate your belief in equality of opportunity. You have continued to build on your vision of 'creating opportunity, releasing potential and achieving excellence'
(Ofsted 2018)

At Priestley, we value the contribution your child makes to their own learning and to the learning of their peers around them. It is important that your child enjoys their time at Priestley, develops a healthy attitude to learning and creates a bank of memories that will stay with them for years to come.

The all-round development of your child is our paramount importance. We seek to build strong relationships with all our parents and carers and look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's education.

This brochure will convey to you the aims and values of the school. However, seeing is believing, so you are warmly invited to visit and tour the school. This will allow you to experience the friendly, creative and stimulating atmosphere that is Priestley Primary School.

We look forward to meeting you.

Andrew Marsh-Ballard

Headteacher





Cooperate



About Our School

Calne is a small town that nestles in the western reaches of the Designated Area of Natural Beauty known as the North Wessex Downs. It sits on the River Marden and the A4 between Chippenham and Marlborough. Its origins date back to Anglo Saxon times and more recently it was known for the imposing Harris pork processing factory that finally closed it's doors during the early 1980s.

The school derives its name from the philosopher and chemist Joseph Priestley who it is believed, whilst staying at the nearby Bowood House in 1774, discovered the existence of oxygen. The story continues that whilst observing the ducks swimming on the Doctors Pond in the town he observed the bubbles appearing on the surface of the water thus observing the existence of oxygen.

Priestley Primary School is a community school. It is ideally situated amongst several housing estates within half a mile of Calne's town centre in Prince Charles Drive. Traditionally a one form entry school, Priestley is now enjoying a period of expansion that will in time take the school to two forms of entry. A particular strength of the school is its spacious grounds that allow for three playgrounds and extensive grassy areas. We have worked hard to landscape the school grounds to best support all aspects of the children's learning with a wildlife area, dedicated outside teaching spaces, a range of fixed large play equipment and extensive areas to run and play.

"At Priestley we always try our best."

(Reception pupil 2019)



"A typical parent's comment was
*Great school, fantastic teachers.
My child feels happy and safe
in a supportive learning
environment.*"

(Ofsted 2018)



Spikey

Ethos & Aims

The school's vision is:

'Raising Aspiration, Realising Ambition, Stimulating Curiosity'

Confident to explore an unknown future.

Our mission or how we aim to achieve this vision is:

Placing Learning At The Heart Of All We Do

Working in partnership with pupils, parents, staff, Governors and the wider community to provide a safe, happy stimulating and purposeful learning environment where high expectations are set so that all pupils are challenged to achieve their potential, socially and academically.

For our core values which underpin our mission I would like to introduce you to an extremely popular member of the Priestley Team. Spikey is the school's learning character that was both designed and developed by the children themselves. Everyone at Priestley aspires to being 'Spikey', every day. Attached to Spikey are the school's core values. Under an umbrella statement of 'Respect for All' our core learning values are:

- Cooperate
- Give it a go
- Stay focussed
- Share great ideas
- Take responsibility
- Think things through

**Give it
a go**





Take Responsibility



"You use your deep and accurate knowledge of the school's effectiveness to bring about continued improvements to teaching and learning."

(Ofsted 2018)

"Priestley is the best school in Calne. Everyone here cooperates and you will get a warm welcome."

(Year 6 pupil 2019)

The Curriculum

Being a community school, we are governed by National Curriculum and the Programmes of Study for each subject area.

Our aim is to bring lessons to life through inspirational learning activities and high-quality teaching, creating a classroom environment that allows children to learn in a way that motivates and interests them. When delivering the curriculum, the school employs a four stage philosophy of: Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express; we call them the four cornerstones of learning.

We approach the challenge of addressing the varying abilities in a class by adopting a variety of approaches to learning, using class, group and individual teaching as appropriate. It is our aim that each child has an education tailored to their individual needs. We pride ourselves on our reflective approach. We constantly review our policies and practice to ensure we are best engaging the children's interest, developing their knowledge and understanding and above all keeping them safe.



"A typical comment from a parent echoed the views of others: The school organises a superb range of trips and a fantastic array of visitors."

(Ofsted 2018)

"Pupils are keen learners, eager to participate and answer questions in class."

(Ofsted 2018)

"You have, since the previous inspection, developed a strong team of teachers and leaders who share your commitment to building the aspirations of the community and widening the horizons of all pupils."

(Ofsted 2018)

Engage

We start our learning at the engage stage. This is arguably the most important stage of your child's learning process as this is where we capture your child's interest, motivating them to find out more. Typically, this stage of learning at Priestley will be providing memorable first-hand experiences, undertaking some initial research and setting of interesting questions or lines of enquiry.

Develop

We then continue your child's learning journey by providing opportunities for them to explore and develop new skills whilst improving their knowledge trying to answer those initial questions or follow those initial lines of enquiry.

Innovate

This is where your child is provided the opportunity to apply these new-found skills and improved levels of understanding in real-life contexts.

Express

The final stage your child will experience will allow them to evaluate their learning and become performers, experts and informers who are able to both share and celebrate their learning with those around them.

Think Things Through





**Share
Great Ideas**



EYFS

Our EYFS class will often be your child's first experience of Priestley. We therefore place a great importance in getting those initial relationships in place, thus allowing your child to settle in quickly, feeling safe and secure in a nurturing environment. It is our aim to ensure that the start to school, which can often be daunting to both parents and child alike, becomes the cornerstone to what will be an exciting journey through primary education.

Through fostering an attitude in our EYFS learners that everyone can have a go and succeed, with all efforts praised and achievements celebrated, the children learn to feel proud of themselves. Couple this with a rich and stimulating learning experience, based around engaging topics and high-quality texts, we are able to immerse your child in new experiences to develop their communication and language and raise their confidence, which will feed all areas of their learning and development.

"Highly effective teaching has led to children making strong progress in the Reception class"

"You have ensured that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education"

(Ofsted 2018)

Key Stage One

Light touch learning, increasing independence and empathy

Leaving EYFS behind and moving into Key Stage One can feel like a big step. At Priestley, our Key Stage One teachers are there to make this transition easier for everyone by supporting your child in the next part of their journey. We aim to make the transition a smooth one with your child still learning through play, exploring and discovering, albeit in an increasingly more structured environment. By the end of Key Stage One your child will be encouraged to work more independently, having improved their ability to access their learning through building upon and being able to apply increasingly difficult phonic and numerical concepts.

Key Stage Two

Increasing confidence, exploration and awareness

Overall, perhaps the single most important aspect of this Key Stage is your child's increasing independence and confidence in what they can achieve at school. Your child will be encouraged to start to think about their own learning; needing to make decisions on how to present work, how and when to complete homework and also how they might learn best. Your child's teachers will encourage them to think for themselves, look for opportunities for them to answer questions and solve problems independently. Ultimately, we seek to create young, resilient and independent learners who are ready to take on the next stage of the learning journey at secondary school.





Outside the Classroom

"Parents and carers value the exciting learning opportunities pupils have both within and beyond the school day."

(Ofsted 2018)

"It is the best school but beware you have to work hard here."

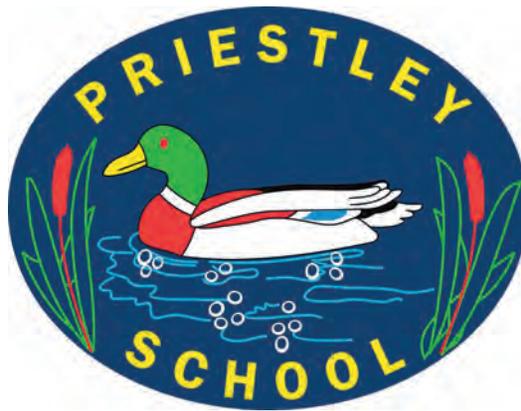
(Year 3 pupil 2019)

At Priestley, we believe that providing opportunities to learn outside of the classroom helps to develop the ability to cope with and experience a wide variety of challenges. It requires pupils to make informed choices and to understand and take responsibility which leads to a positive 'can-do' attitude. We offer several residential opportunities for your child during their journey through Key Stage Two; these trips away are an opportunity for children to experience a range of new activities alongside their peers, further developing their resilience and independence. These are all key skills which will stand them in good stead back in the classroom.

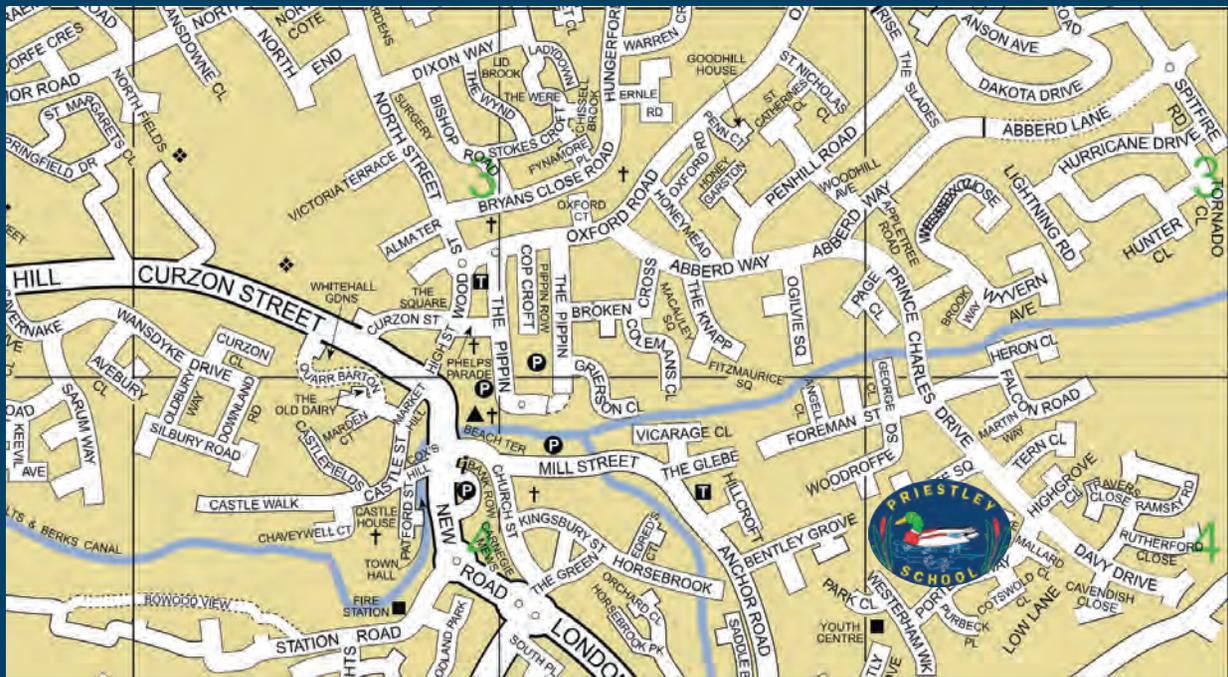
We also believe that culture enriches lives and that participation in creative and cultural activities will have a significant impact on your child. As well as being valuable and enjoyable in its own right, participation in cultural activities also gives children the chance to develop important life skills such as creativity, confidence, self-discipline, effective communication and the ability to work in teams. Therefore, we offer regular opportunities to experience trips to the theatre and enjoy hosting visiting authors, artists and musicians at our school.

Providing such a wide range of opportunities for our pupils at Priestley helps develop a range of personal attributes that will ensure that, even from a young age, your child will be beginning to use and apply skills that will be particularly important in a rapidly changing world where the cultural and creative industries are increasingly important to our economic future.





Together Everyone Achieves More



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