



Welcome Back

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer break, even if the weather was a little disappointing. Wandering around the classrooms, I have been extremely pleased with how everyone has come back and got back into the swing of things really quickly. It is always a privilege to see a brand-new set of smiley faces each year entering EYFS, embarking on their Priestley journey. As per last year, the extended transition at the end of last year has really ensured everyone is back and

ready to go.

We can look forward to another packed year of learning, with all our trips and visitors already booked up for the year. These trips and visitors play a vital part in what we try and achieve at Priestley although we appreciate costs continue to rise. However, I can assure you that we always look for best value and gain several quotations from different coach companies. On top of looking for best value, we also assign over £10,000 of the school budget to help achieve these experiences. Like with everything else currently, it is becoming more and more difficult to try and achieve, so your continued support plays a vital part in keeping this valuable part of the school's packed calendar going. Your termly contributions and your support helping out on the day are crucial, without either of these we couldn't provide half of what we currently do, Thank you. We have our two KS2 Residential Trips booked, the first being Morfa Bay for Yr 5 & 6 in November and Skern Lodge in Westward Ho, to follow in April for Yr 3 & 4, more information on this to follow soon. We've proved over the years that working together, we can provide the children with the best possible primary school experience and memories they will cherish for years to come.

Attendance

There continues to be some 'very definite' communications from the Department for Education with regards to attendance. Expectations are high and it's down to schools to ensure they achieve it. So as ever, we are caught between a rock and a hard place with this issue in school, but please let's work together this year to ensure the attendance percentage for Priestley remains in line with national expectations.

Remember as little as 7 days off during a whole school year for holiday, medical appointments or illness will already bring your child's attendance down to 96%.

Remember you are required to contact school to inform us of a reason for absence by 9.15 am, on each day your child is absent and we will require a little more detail than your child is 'just feeling unwell'.

Breakfast Club

We have re-started our Breakfast Club and there is a limited number of places. If you would like more information regarding this, please contact the office for more details.

After School Club

The Big A Club is now up and running after school, if you require after-school childcare please contact the Big A Club directly to find out more.

Tel: 07832 304452

email: admin@thebigaclub.co.uk

Free School Meals

Can I please remind you that if you are entitled to apply for Benefits related Free School Meals that you do so asap, even if your child is in KS1 and currently receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals, you do still need to claim. This will ensure that if the Government does decide to issue meal vouchers for the October half term, that you do not miss out. You can come to the office to collect the form if required.

Didn't We Do Well, Again

As is now becoming the norm, the children did us all extremely proud again last year. I have had the first rush of data that compares the school against initial local and national averages. I am proud to announce that we exceeded averages for pupils reaching the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of KS2. Well done folks, PRIESTLEY & PROUD!

This Year's Priorities

This year our push in the classrooms will continue to focus on reading and writing, specifically phonic development across Foundation Stage and Key Stage One and the further development of Punctuation, Spelling, Grammar and Handwriting across the school. Supplementing this, we will be embedding work on the multiplication tables and continuing to ensure our attendance continues to improve.

Concrete

As, no doubt you've heard in the news this week a number of schools across the country have been found to be structurally weak due to the use of aerated concrete in the school's construction. We have been informed by Wiltshire Council that the DfE has not included Priestley, or any other Wiltshire school in any of their lists. Of course, I will keep you informed should anything change.

Some Reminders

Playground gates will be locked at 9.00 am and opened at 2.45 pm.

Driveway Gates – Please **DO NOT PARK** in front of the gates. They must be left clear at all times for deliveries and emergency services. These are locked at 8.15 am and reopened at 9.00 am and then locked again at 2.45 pm and reopened at 3.30 pm.

Any child arriving at school late, must be accompanied into the school office by a parent or guardian.

Only water in your child's drinks bottle please.

Please can we remember to put names in items of clothing. We are only a couple of days in and we have items of clothing starting to gather unnamed and unclaimed.

Bikes & Scooters

Please can all those who ride or scoot to school please disembark at the entrances to the school (road and Rec gates) and walk their bike or scooter to the bike shed, that way we can ensure everyone stays safe of the playground.

Teacher Development Days

Thursday 4 January 2024

Friday 5 January 2024

Monday 19 February 2024

Monday 1 July 2024

Other Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 26 & Thursday 28 September – Parents Evening

Tuesday 3 October – Rags2Riches Collection

Monday 16 October – EYFS & KS1 Harvest Assembly

Tuesday 17 October – KS2 Harvest Assembly

Thursday 19 October – Friday 27 October 2023 – Half Term

Monday 30 October – Back to school

Thursday 2 November – Bonfire Stories

Monday 6 November – Friday 10 November – Yr 5 & 6 Morfa Bay residential

Friday 17 November – Children in Need 2023

Tuesday 21 November – Monday 27 November – Book Fayre

Friday 24 November – Individual School Photographs

Tuesday 12 December – EYFS Nativity

Tuesday 19 December – Christmas School Church Service

Thursday 21 December – Wednesday 3 January 2024 – Christmas Holidays

Monday 8 January – Back to School

Priestley & Proud

A Marsh-Ballard

Mr Marsh-Ballard