



School Newsletter



AUTUMN 1 EDITION

Welcome to our Autumn term newsletter.

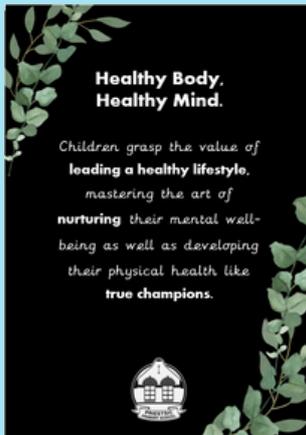
The children have settled really well into their new school year and are learning well. Thank you for such positive feedback from the parents survey that went out recently. It is much appreciated.

As that special time of year approaches, we will keep you up to date with activities in school. Please keep checking the school website, Class Dojo and the school's Facebook page for information.

Have a lovely half term,
Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Small

Focussing on our Curriculum of:

Health and Wellbeing



As part of our Food Technology curriculum, Year 1 have been making fruit kebabs.



In PSHE, Year 3 have been finding out about the importance of a healthy lifestyle, and a healthy mind.



Welcome to our Mental Health Champions who will be supporting children throughout school to promote positive mental health.



In our drive to promote health and wellbeing, we are happy to see children travelling to and from school on their bikes and scooters. To continue the success of this, we would like to raise money to buy an all weather bike and scooter shelter.

Remember to pop on a helmet!



Every morning, the children have the opportunity to eat a free breakfast in class. We have a selection of different cereals available. Having a good breakfast starts the day right and puts children in a great place ready to learn.



Dates for the Diary

November:

- Monday 3rd November - Inset Day
- Tuesday 4th November - Return to school for pupils
- Tuesday 4th November - Flu vaccines
- Thursday 6th November - Book fair begins
- Parent Teacher Meetings from Monday 10th November
- Wednesday 19th November - F2-Year 6 Parents Evening 3:30pm - 5:30pm (Further details to follow)

December:

- Tuesday 2nd December - Foundation 2 Christmas Performance
- Thursday 4th December - Nursery Christmas Performance
- Friday 5th December - Christmas Enterprise Event at Idlewells with Dalestorth School Council
- Monday 8th December - Year 5 Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's - more information to follow soon
- Thursday 11th December - Year 1 Christmas Performance
- Friday 12th December - Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
- Monday 15th December - Year 2 Christmas Performance
- Friday 19th December - Last day of term

January:

- Monday 5th January - Inset Day
- Tuesday 6th January - Return to school for pupils

School Council

Following lessons on the British Value of democracy, our new School Council has now been elected! Pupils took part in thoughtful discussions about what it means to have a voice and how democratic decisions are made, before voting for their representatives. After half term, the newly elected council will meet with Dalestorth's School Council to begin planning our exciting Christmas Enterprise Event. We can't wait to see their creative ideas and teamwork in action!



Celebrating Attendance at Priestsic:

Key Stage 1 superstar class with the highest consistent attendance for the academic year to date goes to.....

Miss Bond's class in Year 1

Lower Key Stage 2 superstar class with the highest consistent attendance for the academic year to date goes to.....

Miss Millward's class in Year 4

Upper Key Stage 2 superstar class with the highest consistent attendance for the academic year to date goes to.....

Mr Clay's class in Year 5

208 pupils have had a great start with 100% attendance to date.

Wow - well done, Superstars!

224 pupils have attendance above the 97% national average percentage attendance. Priestsic Primary and Nursery school have 93.9% attendance to date.

It's great to see so many of our children in school on time, eating their breakfast and ready to learn - it really helps your child to have a calm and focussed start to the day when they arrive on time. Let's continue to work together to ensure we all have a great start to the day.

Pop and see Lizzie Ikuesan, our Attendance Officer, or Amanda Cooper, our Family Support Worker if you need any help or support.

Pupil Premium



Thank you so much for the incredible response to our free school meal competition. We had over 100 replies and our winners have collected their prizes. Not only does this mean that children will get free school meals until they leave in Year 6, it also means that school will help with costs towards school trips.

If you think you may qualify and have not returned a form, it isn't too late.

Forms are always available from the office or from Amanda Cooper, our Family Support Worker.

Rainforest workshop

Year 6 had an amazing Rainforest Explorer Day, taking a whistle-stop tour of the world's rainforests with real-life explorer Simon. During the session, pupils discovered the different layers of the rainforest, met some of the incredible animals that live there, and learned about the indigenous tribes who call these places home. They also explored some of the environmental challenges facing our planet today and discussed practical ways we can all help to protect the rainforests. The children asked fantastic questions throughout and represented our school brilliantly with their enthusiasm and curiosity.

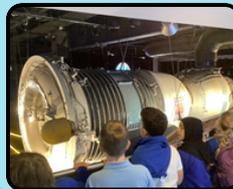


Space:

Year 2 had a very exciting day of workshops where we learnt all about the different parts of the space shuttle 'Apollo 11' that flew Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins to the moon in July 1969. We then went on to learn more about Neil Armstrong himself and his childhood and had the chance to interview Neil Armstrong himself! Finally, we were all astronauts and experienced the first moon landing...it was a very bumpy ride!



This half term, Year 5 BLAST OFF to the National Space Centre in Leicester! There was plenty of exploring to be done and fun to be had! We took part in workshops throughout the day, including one about Mars Rovers, where we could program our own rovers to complete challenges, just as real scientists do. A highlight was the planetarium show, where we took a journey through our solar system, learning facts about each planet along the way (like Venus being Earth's evil twin as it has a toxic atmosphere and rains acid!) Finally, we bravely climbed to the very top of the 42m tall rocket tower, taking in the views and enjoying the different activities on each floor.



Foundation Stage:

Welcome to our newest members of the school in Foundation, who have made a fantastic start to their school journey. In Foundation 2, we have read Jack and the beanstalk and planted a bean to observe grow. We have read Little Red Hen and baked our own bread. We had church workers in to talk about Harvest. We read the three little pigs and created our own pig out of dough.



EAL (English as an Additional Language)

We are excited to welcome new and existing pupils from all backgrounds this academic year.

We have a fantastic range of languages spoken at Priestsic including: Tamil, Polish, Romanian, Urdu, Yoruba, Malayalam, Pashto and many more. The diversity in our school is wonderful and encapsulates one of the many things that is great about Priestsic.

Our EAL children have been accessing bespoke learning with great enthusiasm and we can't wait to see the great progress all of our children will make throughout the school year.

We recognise that helping your child can be difficult, especially if you are new to English too. For new and existing parents to our school who require help with English as an additional language, please locate information on our EAL page on the school website or if you have any questions, please ask Mr Barrett or ask for support material from the school office.



Mr Barrett
EAL Coordinator



Uniform

May we please remind you that our school uniform consists of:

- Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
- Pale blue or white polo shirt, shirt or blouse
- Dark grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Blue gingham dress
- Year 6 only - Royal blue hooded jacket with school logo (Purchased through the school office)



May we please remind you that pupils should not wear sports leggings for school.

In accordance with our uniform policy, children should not wear any makeup, false nails, false eye lashes or jewelry apart from simple studs and a watch..

Pupils should not wear a smart watch to school which allow photographs to be taken.

If you require help or support with school uniform we can support with this through our 'new to you' uniform.

For PE pupils should wear:

- Plain black shorts or plain black jogging bottoms
- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black sweatshirt or plain black hooded jacket
- Trainers

Pupils will come to school dressed in their P.E. kit on their allotted P.E. days, ensuring that learning time in P.E lessons is maximised. P.E. lessons often take place outdoors in all weathers. It is essential, therefore, that pupils are dressed appropriately for outdoor physical activity.

Crop tops, body suits, and shorts of an inappropriate length are not appropriate for P.E.



Remember to make sure you are on Class Dojo! Speak to the class teacher if you need any support.

Sport Clubs

We've started the year strongly with three Next Level Sports after-school clubs, catering for years 2 through to year 6, giving our students plenty of opportunities to stay active, learn new skills and have fun. We're also thrilled with the launch of our new year 5 and 6 Girls' Football After-School Club, which has already been a great success. It's fantastic to see such enthusiasm and participation from our pupils!

In addition to our after-school clubs, our pupils have been busy representing Priestsic proudly in competitions. Our Year 5/6 Handball Team recently took part in a local tournament and came an impressive 3rd place; well done to all involved!

Meanwhile, our Year 5 and 6 school football team has kicked off their season with determination and hard work. Every child has represented Priestsic with great effort and sportsmanship, both on and off the pitch. We're incredibly proud of all our young athletes and look forward to a fantastic year of sport ahead!



Year 5 and 6 hand ball team

Spooky Disco

A huge thank you to our fabulous 'Friends of Priestsic' parents for your kind support during our spooktacular discos.



Harvest Festival

We would like to share a massive thank you to all of your donations towards our Harvest Festival food collection to a local food bank, which will help those families most in need. Children have presented your kind donations to representatives of New Cross Church.



Mrs Stamp's Kindness Garden

We would like to extend a massive thank you to all of your help in creating Mrs Stamp's Kindness Garden through your support of school events such as the Summer Fayre.

We are now ready to plant some winter pansies to make a cheerful display over winter for everyone to enjoy.

