

Autumn 2 Newsletter

Headteachers' message:

What a wonderful half term of exciting experiences, amazing learning and festive celebration! We feel so proud to be part of this wonderful community and are pleased to share that Mr Burke has managed to win a library for the school including 500 brand new books, audio books and library furniture from 'Breakfast Bookstars'. A big thank you also to Mrs Guest for winning a day trip for 30 children to Matlock Farm Park! We are lucky to have staff who are so dedicated to our school. We also want to share our appreciation of our 'Friends of Priestsic' ladies - thank you all so much for your support at the Christmas Fayre and for supporting the school to raise over £1200.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year! See you in 2026!

Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Small

Matlock
farm park



In partnership with
Arch
magic
breakfast
Green
Schools

Focusing on our Curriculum Driver of:



Celebrate diversity

Children develop knowledge of the world around them, so they understand, appreciate and celebrate the rich, diverse society in which they live, whilst developing a strong sense of belonging to and responsibility for their local area and wider world.



Diversity:

In Key stage One, this year we have researched a range of diverse figures, such as Mae Jemison and Roma Agrawal as part of our learning.

In Year 5's learning about other cultures, we have explored how different cultures in our school celebrate Christmas. Year 5 have taken part in a joint project with Dalestorth Primary to share our learning in a learning showcase.



During our PE sessions in Year 6, we have learned about Ellie Simmonds, one of our aspirational figures. Throughout our PE lessons, all year groups have taken part in inclusive sports: Boccia, table cricket and goalball

In the spring term, we will be launching our new 'Anti-Racism Education Project' where we will learn that everyone has different amounts of melanin, which is why people have different skin colours.

Garden Gang

This half term, Garden Gang has been working hard, despite the cold weather, to create some brilliant table centrepieces that were sold at the Christmas Fair. Additionally, we have planted some spring bulbs in Mrs Stamp's Kindness Garden, ready to create a beautiful display around April time.



Dates for the Diary:

January:

- Monday 5th January - Inset Day
- Tuesday 6th January - Return to school for pupils
- Wednesday 7th January - F1 new starters stay and play
- Monday 12th January - Play for a Day Year 6
- Monday 12th January - Chance to Shine Cricket starts in Year 3
- Tuesday 13th January - Play for a Day Year 6

February:

- Thursday 5th - Friday 6th February - Rand Farm residential 3DB
- Monday 9th February - Beat Feet African Drumming workshop - F2
- Thursday 12th - Friday 13th February - Rand Farm residential 3NC
- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half Term
- Monday 23rd February - Return to school for pupils
- Wednesday 25th - Thursday 26th February - Lea Green residential - Year 4
- Friday 27th February - Move Together ATTFE Project begins - more detail to follow

March:

- Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th March - High Adventure residential - Year 6

Attendance

Since the beginning of Autumn 2, we've had 148 pupils with 100% attendance.

Just a reminder that attendance continues to be a priority for us at Priestsic Primary and Nursery School. Please can we ensure that children are in school every day unless they are poorly. If your child is ill, please ensure you contact school before the start of the day.

Please can you also ensure that children are on time for school so that they don't miss important parts of the curriculum. If you can, please refrain from collecting children earlier than the end of the school day. If your child has an appointment and needs to be collected early, can you please bring the appointment card/letter to the school office so that this can be recorded.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance.

8A updates

As you may be aware, our 8A building is now under renovation, which is an exciting development for school that includes our plans for wraparound care. More information to follow soon!



Year 4

In swimming, Year 4 have learned about how to keep themselves safe around water, and what to do if they were in danger near open water. They learned the star float and how to safely pull people in who were in danger. During our Egypt day, we learned about hieroglyphics and how they were decoded using the Rosetta Stone and how to mummify a body, where we wrote a set of instructions. We also looked at the different gods and goddesses.



Foundation 1

We started off the half term with a visit from the fire engine. The children enjoyed learning about the role of a firefighter and looking around the fire engine. They especially enjoyed listening to the sirens and watching the flashing lights.

The children have worked together to retell stories using puppets. We were proud of the children in their first Christmas Performance. They sang all the Christmas songs and joined in with the actions with big smiles on their faces.



Year 6

Year 6 travelled back in time to the 1940s and had an immersive day as WW2 evacuees. We experienced air raid sirens and found out what a wartime Christmas was like. We followed ration recipes to create delicious carrot cookies, cheese scones and rock cakes. We also created our own Christmas tree decorations and followed the "Make do and Mend" initiative to turn old and worn out T Shirts into some amazing bags! We have also been learning a traditional war time tea dance in our PE sessions, which we are looking forward to performing and sharing on DOJO. Our WW2 Learning Journey will continue after the Christmas holidays, and we are very much looking forward to our visit to the National Holocaust Centre in January.

Year 3 and 4 Athletics

These fantastic Priestsic pupils took part in an after-school Next Level sports, indoor athletics competition. We are so proud of the determination and respect they showed throughout the event. Well done, and GO PRIESTSIC!



Year 1

We had a fantastic experience with Ian from Junior STEM as part of our learning around transport. We learned how to create an algorithm on a tablet, and use an axel and motor to make a moving COOL Car. We had such fun creating our own unique Cool cars and watching them move!

We have loved practising and performing our Christmas performance this year! Learning all the Christmas songs has been fun and festive and we really enjoyed wearing our special Christmas costumes on the stage. We felt very proud to perform to a special audience on performance day. Thank you for coming to our Christmas play.



Foundation 2

Our amazing children absolutely shone in the Christmas Nativity. There wasn't a dry eye in the hall! We were bursting with pride watching them sing, dance and sparkle on stage.

We also had a hoot when Go Active Falconry brought their beautiful owls to visit us as we explored the story Owl Babies. The children were fascinated!

To celebrate Diwali, the festival of light, the children got stuck into clay and created their very own colourful Diwa pots. There was glitter everywhere... but the results were worth it!

What a fantastic half term, Foundation 2 — we can't wait for more adventures ahead!



Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been enjoying the Christmas season by performing a Carol Concert at St Mary Magdalene's Church. Parents and carers were invited to come along and join in with the festive cheer! The children performed a range of carols and modern Christmas pop songs and listened to a short talk about the importance of Christmas time.

Additionally, we have been working alongside Dalestorth School to explore 'Christmas Around the World'. Our focus countries have been Nigeria, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Latvia and Czechia. We have been investigating Christmas traditions, making Christmas food and singing some traditional Christmas songs in order to present them to the Year 5 children at Dalestorth.



This half term in Year 2 is always one of our favourites. We have been learning all about the Great Fire of London and the impact this still has on London today. We had lots of fun role playing the Great Fire, throwing water onto the wooden buildings, burying Samuel Pepys' cheese and wine and rowing on our boats down the River Thames. The highlight of our half term though has to be our wonderful Christmas Play 'Santa goes on Strike'. The children worked so hard and we are very proud of them.



The School Council have been very busy this half term. We have represented our school beautifully at the Remembrance Service at New Cross church and took part in our Christmas enterprise event with Dalestorth at Idlewells. The children loved selling the Christmas items with children from both schools and we raised over £200 to continue to improve our outdoor provision.



Christmas Tree

We would like to extend a massive thank you to Asda for gifting us a tree for our Kindness Garden!



Winter Weather

During winter, if we experience any extreme weather, and school has to close, we will inform parents via text message and Class Dojo by 8am. This will also be posted on the school Facebook Page and website.



Christmas Dinner

Thank you to our amazing kitchen staff for a wonderful Christmas Dinner as part of the build up to Christmas. The hall was wonderfully decorated and the children had a fantastic time. It was wonderful to see our pupils in their Christmas Jumpers.



Choir

What a busy few weeks the school choir have had rehearsing for their many performances. They were absolutely amazing when they sang at this years Christmas Light switch on event in Sutton. They have also performed at local care homes and at the Christingle Service at New Cross Community Church.

