

SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER

Headteachers' message:

After the very sad passing of Mrs Stamp a year ago, we are honoured to have been appointed as the permanent Co-Headteachers of Priestsic Primary School. We are determined to make our wonderful school the very best place it can be for our pupils, staff and families. We would like to say a huge thank you for all your support over the last year. We are very much looking forward to leading the school in its next phase and have some exciting plans for the future.

Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Small

Hi, I am Mrs Hewitt. I have been part of the Priestsic family for over 30 years. My focus is early years and Key Stage One alongside Mrs King and Mrs Bates. Pop in and see us if you have any queries, questions or concerns.



Hi, I am Mrs Small, I am the co-headteacher and have worked at this wonderful school for more than four years. I run Key stage 2 with Mrs Marriott and Mr Burke. We are always here to support our families, so please get in touch if you need anything.



Curriculum Driver: Vocabulary



As part of our World Book Day celebrations this year each Year group read a quality picture book containing a high level of vocabulary for discussion. Children in Year 2 were also lucky enough to visit Sutton library and watch a performance of "Along came a magpie". All children were fully immersed in the captivating drama performance.

Get to know the specialists...

Mrs Bates, KS1 English Lead



Hi everyone! As the KS1 English Lead, I help make sure our reading, writing and phonics teaching is the best it can be across Key Stage One.

One of my favourite parts of the job is helping children explore new words and grow their vocabulary. The lovely thing is that this doesn't just happen in lessons—talking together, sharing stories and noticing interesting words in everyday life all make a big difference.

Reading Tip:

When you're reading with your child, pause now and then to chat about the pictures or predict what might happen next. These quick conversations help build understanding and introduce new vocabulary.

We're thrilled to share that our school has received over 500 fantastic new books through the Libraries for Primaries scheme! Our reading spaces now have cosy new beanbags, helping us create an inviting environment where children can relax, explore stories, and develop a lifelong love of reading.



Dates for the diary:

April:

Monday 13th - Return to school for pupils
Tuesday 21st - Incredible Eggs to arrive in Year 2
Wednesday 22nd - Earth Day
Thursday 23rd - Friday 24th - Walesby residential Year 5
Tuesday 28th - Notts Mini Police sessions to begin in Year 5

May:

Monday 11th - SATs Week - Year 6
Wednesday 20th - 3:30-4:30pm - Nursery Open Evening
Wednesday 20th - Year 2 visit Clumber Park
Thursday 21st - Year 6 at Ashfield Fire Station
Friday 22nd - Last day of half term

June:

Monday 1st - Return to school for pupils
Friday 12th - Whole school photo day
Year 5 to visit Royal Concert Hall - Halle Orchestra
Wednesday 17th - 3NC visit Pleasley Pit
Thursday 18th - Year 4 visit Yorkshire Wildlife Park
Wednesday 24th and Friday 25 - Bikeability Year 6
Monday 29 - Maya Day - Y6

July:

Wednesday 1st - 3DB visit Pleasley Pit
Friday 24th - Last day for pupils

Attendance

We would like to thank all our families for their continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly and on time.

Our whole school attendance for Spring Term 2 is 91.6%. We've had 181 pupils with 100% attendance up until week ending 20th March 2026.

Our target remains at 97% or above. Good attendance is key to children making strong progress and enjoying all aspects of school life.

When children do not attend school regularly, it has an impact on their learning, so we encourage all pupils to attend every day unless they are unwell. Please remember to inform school of any absences.

If you need any support with your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are here to help.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us.

World Book Day



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

For World Book Day all year groups read and took part in a range of exciting activities based on different picture books promoting our school values. All children also had the opportunity to share stories with peers from other year groups in school.

F1 focused on **Kindness**, reading the book, 'Wibbly Pig has 10 balloons'. They talked about acts of kindness that the children could do. All the children were set a mission to show kindness to others during the morning. The children received their own balloon to take home for showing kindness.

F2 focused on **Independence**, reading the book, 'Let's get ready'. They spent their day learning how to be independent and brushing their teeth.

Year 1 focused on **Respect**, reading the book, 'Rainbowsaurus'. They spoke about how everyone is unique and how they respect each others differences.

Year 2 focused on **Self-belief**, reading the book, 'Basil dreams big'. They spoke about things they had achieved through having an 'I can do it' attitude and created their own 'book in a box'.

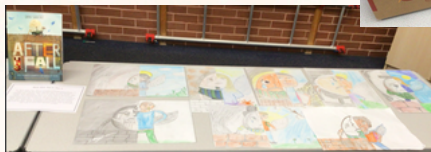
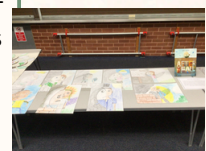
Year 3 focused on **Independence**, reading the book, 'The magic pencil'. They created their own unique pencils which they used in class and created what they would use them for like Malala to better the world we live in.

Year 4 focused on **Responsibility**, reading the book, 'The last rainbow bird'. They talked about how they can take responsibility and created a new front cover for the story.

Year 5 focused on **Self-belief**, reading the book, 'The koala who could'. They created their own self-belief tree, with the roots being their foundations, the school values; the trunk is showing challenges – the children wrote messages of encouragement and the leaves demonstrate growth – trying new challenges.

Year 6 focused on **Resilience**, reading the book 'After the fall'. They created a half-and-half portrait inspired by themes of resilience and transformation. Through their artwork, pupils explored ideas of fear, growth, and identity using symbolism. One side of the portrait represents fear, doubt, and vulnerability, while the other side shows courage, confidence, and personal growth.

To end our World Book Day celebrations we had a fantastic afternoon at our Whole School Exhibition in the hall looking at all year groups creative work based on their chosen picture book. What a fantastic couple of days enjoying all things reading!



Someone You Love Events

Thank you so much for attending our first "Some one you love" events! We loved seeing so many special guests with the children, it was a lovely event!

A huge 'Thankyou' to the staff and their families who brought and donated cakes and Hayley at Asda and Sharon at Paynes Petals and Creations for the kind donations to support our event! Please keep an eye out for future events. If you have feedback from the event please send it to Mrs Wilson or Mrs Holmes-Bent via Class dojo.

Thank you again!
Friends of Priestsic PTA





Year 1 visit Matlock Farm Park

Year 1 have had an amazing day at Matlock Farm! It was very cold and snowy, but when the sun came out we got to see some amazing animals. We had a meerkat talk and fed the meerkats mealworms and an egg. We fed the alpaca and fallow deer and saw lots of highland cows. We were lucky to see the calf that was born the day before! We were also able to stroke rabbits and guinea pigs as well as have a play in the indoor play area.



Year 3 Artist

Our artist in residence is Dean Lievers. He has returned to work with Year 3 this term. We are creating different types of photography. The year 3 children have been looking at and making their own cyanotype photograph with natural resources from around the school. Cyanotype photography works with chemicals and natural light to produce effective prints. All the children really enjoyed this experience and engaged really well. This experience has been funded by our links with Inspire. We are looking forward to inviting Dean back in the future to explore digital photography with us.



All things Sport



A huge well done to our girls football team who represented the school brilliantly at their FIRST EVER football match on the 17th March. The team showed fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event. We can't wait for our next match.

Congratulations also to our Year 5/6 pupils who took part in their tag-rugby competition on 5th March. They demonstrated great effort and enthusiasm and did the school proud.

Our boys Y 5/6 football team also played a few more of their league fixtures. Keep going boys; we can see you improving every time you step on the pitch. We are very proud of all the children who took part and represented us so well.

Our after-school sports clubs have been a great success this half term, with excellent attendance and enthusiasm from pupils across the school.

Current clubs include:

- Monday – Year 3 Cricket
- Tuesday – Year 1/2 Multi-Sports
- Wednesday – Year 3–6 Running Club
- Thursday – Year 3–6 Tag-rugby
- Friday – Year 5/6 Girls Football



All clubs will be returning after half term in Summer 1 other than cricket. A massive thank you to Chance to Shine for working with our year 3s over the past couple of months.

Children must re-sign up for clubs each half term to secure their place. The sign up forms will be on class dojo pages from 27th March and will close on the 3rd April.

We look forward to another active and exciting half term of sport!



Jacket Potatoes

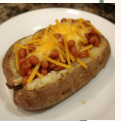
We launched the option of having a jacket potato as a hot meal within school from Wednesday 25th February 2026. To date 566 jacket potatoes have been ordered across whole school. This is a fantastic start! We have gained feedback from some pupils within school and we are thrilled that this is all positive!

Brayden Year 2 – Has cheese and beans with salad. Brayden gave it 5 stars and likes the beans best.

Macy-Grace Year 3 – Has cheese and beans with salad and she eats it all. The salad is her favourite.

Declan Year 5 – Has cheese and beans with salad. Declan said that he gives it 5 stars, eats all his salad and that it is 'better than his Dad's'.

Reuban Year 5 – Has cheese and beans with salad. Reuban said he eats almost all his salad and gives it 5 stars. He continued to say it is 'sooooo nice'.



Year 5 Viking Day

As part of our learning around the Anglo Saxons and Vikings, Year 5 had an immersive Viking day. They were led through the Viking period, becoming Vikings by designing their own Viking shields, using Norse Runes to spell their names and adding further patterns or animals to decorate. They then took part in an epic drama where they became Vikings taking part in a daring raid on England, but sadly losing their leader in battle and having to give him a proper Viking burial! After that, they explored different Viking weapons and armour. Next, we looked at different Viking artefacts that would be found in a longhouse, discussing what they were made of and what they could be used for. Finally, they designed their own Viking settlement, thinking carefully about the placement of their longhouse and their resources!





Year 6 Residential to High Adventure

Our recent residential visit to High Adventure was an unforgettable experience for both children and staff. Throughout the trip, the children embraced every opportunity to challenge themselves, try new things and step outside of their comfort zones.

They took part in a wide range of exciting activities including stream scrambling, canoeing—where they certainly got very wet—bouldering, team building challenges, high ropes, the zip line, and the labyrinth maze. Each activity encouraged them to develop new skills, work collaboratively and build confidence in their own abilities. It was truly inspiring to see so many of the children confront and conquer their fears. Whether it was climbing to new heights or navigating unfamiliar environments, they approached each challenge with determination and positivity. Their resilience and self-belief shone through in every activity and they consistently demonstrated the core values of Priestsic in all that they did.

The behaviour, attitude, and effort shown by the children made everyone incredibly proud. They supported one another, celebrated each other's successes and showed great respect for both staff and instructors throughout the residential.

Both staff and children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it is safe to say that the trip will be remembered for a long time to come. It was a fantastic opportunity for personal growth, teamwork, and creating lasting memories.



Comic Relief

Our recent Comic Relief celebration was a fantastic success—and, as many pupils know, it was always a highlight of the year as Mrs Stamp's favourite day! The school was full of laughter and creativity, with students rocking crazy hairstyles and outfits. The halls and classrooms were alive with games, music and some brilliant dancing. Most importantly, we came together to raise money for a truly great cause, showing both our school spirit and generosity. A big thank you to everyone who helped us raise £280 and to make the day so memorable!



Easter Extravaganza

The Easter discos were a huge hit, with everyone dancing and having a brilliant time. Our Key Stage 1 Easter bonnets were absolutely amazing—so much colour and creativity on show! Key Stage 2 didn't disappoint either, with their egg-cellent egg competition entries bringing plenty of smiles.

What a fun way to celebrate Easter!



Key Stage One Playground

Our KS1 playground has had a lovely makeover, and the children have been having the best time exploring it all! We've added new active equipment to keep everyone moving, plus a small world area and a little shop that have been inspiring lots of imaginative play. The Kindness Garden now has cosy spaces for reading, drawing and colouring, and there's even more to look forward to, with a mud kitchen, sand pit and water play area on the way! The children have really enjoyed every new addition!



We need your help...

We are looking to further enhance play opportunities in the KS1 playground and are kindly asking for donations of children's scooters suitable for 5-7 year olds (non-electric only, please). Scooters are a fantastic way to encourage active play, coordination and fun during break times. If you have a scooter at home that is no longer being used and is still in good condition, we would greatly appreciate your support. Thank you for helping us make playtimes even more enjoyable for our younger pupils!

