

Welcome back to the Autumn Term and for your children to another new year at Priestley. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer. The children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share. Let us hope that we can get through this academic year with minimum disruption. What a strange time we have all been through. We are all very glad to be back (even if it is all a little strange) and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. It is so lovely to see the staff again and have the children back.

The start of any new academic year is always important for your children, but this year seems even more important. There is always excitement and anxiety about what the expectations of the new year will be. We hope that the children will see the year as one in which to consolidate learning from the summer term last year, move forward, improve their work to the best of their ability and to take pride in everything they do. We will be focussing on settling the children, building relationships, and ensuring classes are happy safe places where the children will thrive. As well as hard work and effort, we are sure we will have a year that will be different but still full of fun together and we are very much looking forward to enjoying being part of the Priestley family together again. Thank you in advance for your understanding as we try to make this work for everybody and have the children's safety at the front of our minds. We in school will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way. So far things have run smoothly. The children are doing a wonderful job!

**Over this term here are a few things to tickle your taste buds!**

**Curriculum Focus** - Mighty metals are everywhere! From earrings to rockets, metals have shaped the world we live in today.

Our Topic is 'Mighty Metals.' You're an engineer, a scientist, a maker of men (iron men, of course). Explore the scientific world of forces and magnetism, metals and materials. Expand your mind as you test and trial, build and move. Which force is at play as you slide down a slide or swing on a swing? This term, we're going to become fantastic physicists, exploring the world of forces, metals and materials. We'll look closely at levers and explore how they help us to lift heavy objects. We'll have fun investigating where we need to sit to make a seesaw balance. To learn more about forces, we'll make spinners, play with parachutes and make magnetic games. We'll also investigate iron, think about why some metals rust and discover the properties of different metals. Using pots, pans and other metal objects, we'll compose a metal musical extravaganza and use our artistic skills to create embossed patterns and pictures.

**English Focus** – we will be using the fabulous book 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes to support the children's reading and writing skills.

**Reading:** We will be making predictions, summarising key points, investigating language and vocabulary. We will be continuing to develop our ability to retrieve information from a text to answer questions, when reading for meaning and understanding.

**Writing:** We will continue to write through different genres to support our learning of the topic. Children will write narratives, a non-chronological report, an information poster, a persuasive letter, a diary entry, and bring their writing to life using drama

**Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:** This term there will be a focus on developing the clarity and fluidity of our sentences in writing via spelling (using our topic spellings in particular), punctuation and language structures. We will focus on ensuring our sentences are correctly punctuated consistently. We shall also build our knowledge through learning new sentence structures as well as the use of different punctuation. Lastly, there will be a renewed focus on handwriting ensuring it is of the highest standard in all aspects of the learning.

**Maths Focus** – we will be following the National Curriculum supported by the White Rose Maths Scheme. We will continue to develop our understanding of place value and column addition and subtraction. Further, our focus seeks to revise known multiplications while increasing our knowledge of the 4, 6-, 7-, 8- and 9-times table: this will be underpinned by a growing understanding of division facts and the relationship between the two. Rounding, ordering and comparing numbers will assist the year group in becoming better mathematicians.

## Spikey Values



We will also be working on our Spikey Values and putting a great emphasis on the development all our Spikey skills so all our children can become 'Super Spikey Learners.'. We will be explaining that treating everyone with respect, thinking things through, giving everything a go, being on time and in school every day, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is incredibly important for the children to achieve their best.

### P.E

Participation in P.E is hugely important for the development of health, fitness, and wider skills for learning such as resilience and collaboration. P.E days are:

- ✓ Sandpiper, Harlequin & Eider Classes –Wednesday & Thursday

Due to the current circumstances P.E kits will be brought into school on P.E days left in school for the next day then taken home. Please check your child's P.E. kit that all clothing and shoes still fit. Following guidelines all P.E sessions are being practiced outside so a dark pair of jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt can also be included for comfort. **Please label all uniform and P.E kits with your child's name. This way we can ensure that missing uniform finds its way back to the correct owner.**

### Drinks

Just a reminder that only still water should be sent in plastic bottles please. Juice, sparkling or flavoured water should not be sent in. Your support is appreciated. Research shows that drinking water throughout the day helps children to work at their optimum level.

### Healthy Break Time Snacks

Children in Year 3 and 4 are not provided with fresh fruit and vegetables through the National Fruit Scheme. So please send in a healthy snack for them to enjoy at break time to keep up their energy levels.

### Unlocking the learning at home....

#### Help your child prepare for their learning:

**Topic-** Metals and magnets are everywhere! Why not do a hunt around the house to see how metal is used? You could also make fridge magnets using a flat magnet, glue and modelling clay or recycled materials. Alternatively, you could build models using blocks or recycled materials and investigate the force needed to knock them over!

**Reading** – Children should be reading at home at least 4 times a week. Please listen to your child read and regularly discuss their reading with them. Regular reading aloud is vital to children's vocabulary and fluency development. **We will hopefully be sending reading books home over the next few weeks.**

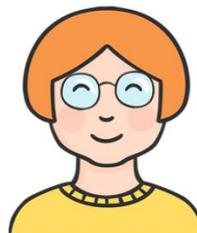
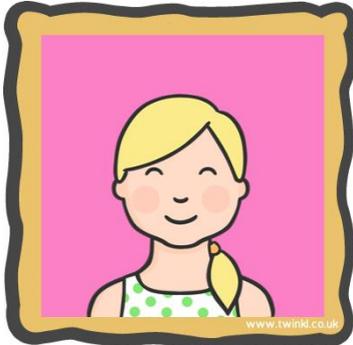
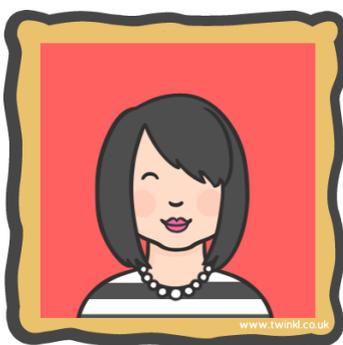
**Spellings** – Spellings will be posted on the Spikey Takeaway Menu. Spellings will focus on specific spelling rules, linked to the Year 3 and 4 National Curriculum words or the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception words.

**Times Tables** - Children must know **ALL** their tables by the end of Year 4 so any chance to recite them with your child is great. Not just 3x4 but 4x3 and  $12 \div 3 = 4$  and  $12 \div 4 = 3$ . We will be practising these using songs and practical activities.

**Spikey Takeaway Menu** – will include a selection of work across different subject areas to be completed over a 2-week period.

Finally, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful term, for your child, for you and for our whole school community. Any questions please don't hesitate to contact us via [ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk)

Mrs Marsh-Ballard, Miss Swann & Mrs Joyce



# MIGHTY



# METALS

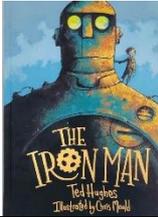


Calling all engineers, scientists and designers... Explore the scientific world of forces and magnetism, metals and materials. Open your mind as you test trial, build and move. Which force is at play as you slide or swing? Can you explain why magnets repel and attract? Can you make a penny look shiny and new, or build a steel band from pots and pans?

Meet Hogarth, the Iron Man's companion. The Iron Man wants an iron friend... We will go head to toe in competition to build him one. They must be strong, sturdy and 'ready to rumble!'

If you were a metal, which one would you be? Gold, a shimmering, precious and costly mineral? Or steel, that strong and useful alloy? Maybe you're iron, malleable and easy to shape, but ready to rust! Perhaps you are not a metal at all – but a force. A force to be reckoned with!

English



In English we will be exploring the new illustrated version of 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. Melding science fiction with fairy tale, The Iron Man tells the story of a gigantic metal robot who appears out of nowhere, crashing onto the beach and shattering into many parts. He is discovered by Hogarth, a young boy. The Iron Man proceeds to devour farm machinery, until the farmers revolt against him.

Art & DT

In art we will be completing embossed patterns and pictures. In DT we will be evaluating products; researching; selecting materials based on their qualities and building our own iron men adding electrical circuits!

RE

Learning about Islam and finding out about the festival Eid ul-Adha, also known as the Greater Eid and finding out about the Hajj - a pilgrimage Muslims make to the holy city of Mecca.

Computing

Creating spreadsheets; Using presentation software

Music

Learning to appraise, sing and perform songs. Learning how to sing different songs in different styles and creating sequences of sounds and vocals.

Mathematics

In maths we will be following National Curriculum supported by The White Rose Scheme. We will be working on Place Value, Addition & Subtraction.

PSHE

In our PSHE lessons, we will be following the Jigsaw unit of learning- Being Me in My World. Thinking about setting goals and well being.

P. E

In P.E we will be looking at the skills needed for team games and developing, strength, stamina and agility. We will also be comparing performances and playing competitive games (sending & striking)

Science

In Science, we are learning about Forces and Magnets. We will be thinking about the effects of friction and gravity and testing these scientifically. Working collaboratively, we will be looking at the advantages of and disadvantages of friction.

Science investigations

Can you block magnetism? Why do magnets attract and repel? What does friction do? How mighty are magnets?