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'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'

Dear Parents & Carers

End of Term One

Well dare I say it, we have made it to the end of what has been an extremely long term for both children and school staff alike. It would seem everyone at school is due some well-earned breathing space. It has certainly been an opening term to remember, and to remember for positive reasons in the fact that we have been super 'Spikey' and managed to work together as a community to ensure the children have almost seamlessly slotted back into life at school after their long break. They have also taken the necessary changes in the school day to day routines in their stride. We have also welcomed a number of new members to the team, not only in Ducklings & Goslings but across the school with more new faces expected after the half term break.

We now look forward after a socially distanced safe break taking on whatever Term Two throws at us. All current arrangements, the staggered start & end of the days, the split playtimes & lunchtimes and maintaining the working in bubbles will continue into Term Two.

Playground Equipment

We have unfortunately had to use some Harris fencing left by the builders to cordon off all the play equipment. We were hoping that we wouldn't have to do this and the equipment might be back in use after the break but due to the rising 'R Number' that doesn't seem likely. We have also had issues during the beginnings and end of the school day, when a number of children have been observed using it. It cannot be used, as we cannot keep it sanitised and therefore ensure that each climbing frame is only used by those children in each particular bubble and no one else, so therefore it is currently not safe to use within the school's Covid risk assessment procedures.

The start of the day

Please can I remind you that we all do try and need to keep to the timings at the start of the day and not enter the school site too early. Again, the reasoning behind the staggered start is to try and reduce the number of people needing to gather on the school site at any one time.

Teacher Development Days

We have now managed to tie these down for the year and they will be:

- Monday 4th January 2021
- Tuesday 5th January 2021
- Monday 17th May 2021
- Friday 2nd July 2021
- Friday 23rd July 2021.

Birthdays

Can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that the bringing of sweets to share on birthdays is not permitted due to both the current Covid situation as well as the school's 'Healthy School' agenda.

What Will Happen in the Event of a Suspected or Positive Case

I wanted to share with you what would happen in the event of a suspected and confirmed case of Covid at Priestley.

Should there be a suspected case, we will ask your child to self-isolate along with the rest of your family. Please arrange an appointment to be tested as quickly as possible. Once you have received

the results, contact the school by phone or email to let us know. Should the results be negative, your child is welcome to come back into school as soon as they are feeling better.

If the result comes back as positive, it is essential that you continue to self-isolate and let us know immediately. We will then contact the appropriate bodies such as the LA, Public Health and the DfE to formulate a risk assessment based on the information received and notify you as quickly as possible. The likely outcome is that all contacts with the positive case will need to self-isolate. As we are operating three geographically located bubbles, it is likely to be either downstairs classes (Ducklings, Goslings, Puffling & Cygnet), upstairs classes (Mallard, Avocet & Curlew) or new build classes (Teal, eider & Sandpiper). Work will be delivered in a similar way as back in the summer, with a range of relevant learning opportunities provided for the children to continue with at home.

Should there be a confirmed case, the affected areas would receive a deep clean to ensure that there is no long-term risk.

Admissions September 2021

Just a reminder the parents of Year 6 pupils need to apply for a secondary school place by 31st October 2020. Parents of pre-school children need to apply for a primary school place by 15th January 2021.

School contact clarification

Currently the school is running two email addresses admin@priestley.wilts.sch.uk and ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk. The admin email is manned by the school office whereas the ask email is manned by the school's senior members of staff. If you require administration information, returning leave of absence forms, clarification of term dates, school dinners etc then please use the admin email address. If your query is around your child, their learning etc then please direct your email to the ask@ email address. Queries sent to the wrong address will be responded to, although it might just take a little longer.

A Message from the Calne Foodbank

The Foodbank is there to Help - 'In these uncertain times and as Christmas approaches, some people may be worrying about how they will manage. We have been asked by Calne Foodbank to remind parents that *the Foodbank is there to help*. Names and addresses are NOT taken, and food is issued on trust. If you need help you can simply call at Church House in Church Street, email calnefoodbank@gmail.com or call the Foodbank on 07752213029. Food parcels can be collected or delivered. They can also be collected on behalf of someone else.'

A Message from Calne News

You may have heard about our campaign to 'Light Up Calne For Christmas'.

As the annual light parade has been cancelled due to coronavirus, a local lady contacted us with an idea to encourage homes across Calne to display Christmas lighting outside their homes and make the town even more exciting for our younger residents.

The campaign has gathered momentum and we have a lot of people who have said they would like to join in, however, we are mindful that not everyone is on social media so we are contacting all schools in town to ask if a small portion of your next newsletter might highlight the campaign?

A link to the latest article is attached here so you can see what it is all about. We would be grateful for your support.

<https://calnenews.com/index.php/calne-news/1982-light-up-calne-for-christmas-are-you-on-the-map>

Priestley & Proud

A Marsh-Ballard

Mr Marsh-Ballard
Headteacher