



'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'

25th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Well, so far, so good!!!



We are now already halfway through the first term of the year, a year that promises to continue to throw up challenges for us all to try and work together to solve. Over the summer and in particular the past few weeks, we at school have needed to be 'Super Spikey'; there has been a lot of 'Thinking things through', 'Giving things ago' and an immeasurable amount of co-operation to say the least. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued part in the process and look forward to continuing to work together through the challenges that will no doubt come our way, during the year.

Absence

Attendance rates remain good in most classes, we do however have the usual tummy bugs & colds surfacing in some classrooms, so thank you for your diligence in achieving this. Some of you may have noticed that on occasion your children will have been taught by a teaching assistant recently. This has been a decision taken by the school for the time being, to where possible not bring in outside supply teachers into the children's school bubbles. We are blessed in having a fantastic team of Teaching Assistants and the work delivered is planned by the teachers.

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-19 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 an enhanced deep clean to ensure that there is no long-term risk.

Pick up/Drop off

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience with regards dropping off & picking up. I appreciate for some of you it isn't the best arrangement but the staggered times and different entrances are in place to try and alleviate the need for large groups of people to gather at any one time on the playgrounds. Please can I ask that you remember to keep your distance from each other when on the school site and ask that you do not approach members of staff unless it is absolutely necessary. We need to try and keep them fit and healthy and not have to possibly close bubbles

because we do not have enough fit staff to look after them. The ask@prestley.wilts.sch.uk email is there for you to share any questions you might have.

Parents Evenings

Unfortunately, our usual early in the year opportunity to discuss how your child has settled is not possible this year so instead you will be receiving a short-written report at the end of term.

Homework during COVID-19 - Term 1

After the success of the Home Learning Projects sent home over the summer and in order to reduce the number of items being exchanged between home and school due to the Covid-19 issue. We have had to rethink how we send out homework during this time.

We have sent out two Home Learning Projects- (Kings & Queens and Forests.) A list of year group spellings for term 1 and a list of year group common exception words. The common exception words are all the words we will be working on in school this year. The projects were provided to continue some of the fantastic learning that the children have been doing at home. The homework can be found on the school website at <https://www.prestley.wilts.sch.uk/copy-2-of-home-learning-13-07-20>

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify that there is no expectation that it all needs to be completed and there is no expectation as to what order you may choose to complete the activities in.

PPA Cover

Since 2005, all teachers have been entitled to PPA time: time away from their classroom for planning, preparation and assessment. This means that every week, your child will have some of their lessons taught by another member of staff. During this year, from Year 2 to Year 6 we have decided to provide the children with subject specialist teachers for their Music, P.E and Spanish lessons. This is completed with the classes rotating through each teacher on Wednesdays. For Ducklings, Goslings, Puffling and Cygnet the classes are taught by teams of teaching assistants under the direction of the class teachers.

Teacher Development Days

We are currently trying to tie these down for the year and will let you know as soon as we've be able to work with our training providers. However, I can say that there will be no TD Days this side of Christmas and our first TD Day of this academic year will be the first day back in January which is Monday 4th January 2021.

Admissions September 2021

Just a reminder for the parents of Year 6 pupils who 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.

To coin a phrase that some of our older members of the team will remember, and a little homework project for those that do not know - 'Let us be careful out there!'

Priestley & Proud

A Marsh-Ballard

Mr Marsh-Ballard
Headteacher