

Welcome back to the Autumn Term and for your children to another new year at Priestley. 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 all the children back. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Swann to the Priestley Team.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with the drop off and pick up at the start of this year and the new arrangements. As you can imagine the planning for school opening has been huge. A plan on paper is quite different to one in practice. We imagine that over the next few weeks – there may be further tweaks to come to get it right – so please bear with us, keep an eye on your text messages and emails. Please familiarise yourself with the staggered start and pick up times. Year groups are entering through designated entrances. Punctuality is key to the success of this. Please can we remind you that there should only be one parent or carer dropping off or collecting children to reduce congestion at the gates and on playgrounds. 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. So far things have run smoothly. The children are doing a wonderful job of washing their hands.

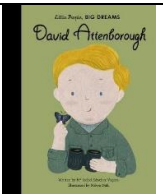




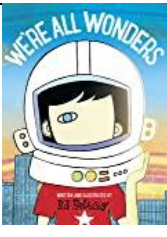
The start of any new academic year is always important for your children, but this year seems even more important. There is always excitement and anxiety about what the expectations of the new year will be. The start of this year may be difficult for some children after quite a while away. We hope that 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 class/location bubbles 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 in one place again.

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

Curriculum Focus - we will be using our Recovery Curriculum during Term 1 to support the children's wellbeing. The curriculum will focus on learning that promotes self-expression & self-esteem. In addition, there will be a focus on artistic and craft-based learning to support children's learning skills and concentration. We will be working in small groups this will support the children to re-engage with their friends and allow them to talk and communicate with each other whilst focussing on tasks. We are constructing our Curriculum around significant people who help us. (Please see below)

English Focus – we will be using fabulous picture books to support well-being and the children's phonics, reading and writing skills.

Maths Focus – we will be following the National Curriculum and White Rose Maths Catch Up Scheme.

| <i>Recovery Curriculum Term 1 2020</i> | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Colonel Tom Moore</i> | <i>Marie Curie</i> | <i>Martin Luther King</i> | <i>David Attenborough</i> | <i>Rosa Parks</i> | <i>Greta Thunberg</i> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>The Heart in the Bottle</i> | <i>The Promise</i> | <i>The Wolves in the Walls</i> | <i>After the Fall</i> | <i>My Monster and Me</i> | <i>We're all Wonders</i> |

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:

- ✓ Yr.1 Puffling Class – Tuesday & Thursday
- ✓ Yr.1/2 Cygnet Class – Thursday & Friday
- ✓ Yr.2 Teal Class - Tuesday & Wednesday

Due to the current circumstances P.E kits will be brought into school on P.E days and 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. Sparkling and 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.

Fresh Fruit Snacks

Children in Years 1 and 2 are provided with fresh fruit and vegetables through the National Fruit Scheme. Although if you would like to send in a different healthy snack that is fine.

Unlocking the learning at home....

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 school's website under Parent's Information- Home Learning. Spellings will focus on specific spelling rules, linked to the Year 1 and 2 National Curriculum words, Phonic Phases, or the Year 1 and 2 Common Exception words.

Spellings - In Year 1, your child will learn about the alphabet and will use phonics to spell simple words. This includes:

- ✓ spelling basic phonically decodable words and common exception words
- ✓ spelling the days of the week
- ✓ naming the letters of the alphabet
- ✓ using simple prefixes and suffixes like un- and -ing.

In Year 2, your child will learn to spell lots more tricky words and will start using apostrophes in their spelling. This includes:

- ✓ learning new graphemes to represent the phonemes they have already learnt
- ✓ using suffixes like -ment, -ness, -ful, -less, and -ly
- ✓ using apostrophes to mark where letters are missing and to mark possession

Times Tables & Number Bots - All children need to know their **number bonds** and **their times tables** We will be practising these using songs and practical activities.

Research Packs - These packs will be posted on the school's website under Parent's Information- Home Learning. Pack 1 is based on Kings & Queens and Pack 2 is based on Forests.

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

Mrs Marsh-Ballard, Miss Swann & Miss Lawrance

