



'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'
Raising Aspirations, Realising Ambition and Stimulating Curiosity

Friday 20th September 2024

Newsletter 2

Newsletters – Many thanks for the positive feedback on last week's newsletter – our aim is to produce a newsletter every other week, with photos showing you what the children have been doing. We will send out extra newsletters when we have something to tell you about, like this one.

Homework – Members of staff have looked carefully at the homework, and have listened to comments from parents, so we would like to make some changes. We are going to move away from online/device-based work for some activities – to reduce screen-time and allow those with more children than devices to be able to access homework fairly.

Whilst each year group will tailor their activities to the needs of the children, the overall idea is that each Monday, children will be given:

- A maths activity – this will vary from early counting to problem solving using algebra depending on year group and needs of individual children.
- Times-tables can be practised using Times-Tables Rockstars (which is device-based) – there may be a quiz to see how well children are doing.
- Spellings – these will be on paper, and should be practised each day during the week, ready for a quiz (aka test).
- Reading – a book and reading record will be coming home – please write in the reading record each time you read with your child; it would be great if you could do so three times a week.

I know that this list does look long, but please remember that each activity should be kept short so that neither children nor adults see it as a big issue.

Although homework is meant to prepare for, reinforce and practise learning across the school, in different years it does different things too:

- in Early Years/KS1 it continues those playful learning activities you did with your children before they even started school,
- in year 6 it makes sure children can organise themselves and their learning (and so are ready for secondary school).

Please Remember, we don't want it to get in the way of family activities – if you walk the dog, go swimming, have a bike-ride (or other great bonding opportunities) together, those should come first; we all know that positive family relationships and experiences are vital to mental health.

Trips and Visits

As some of the classes are mixed, we have taken the opportunity to review the curriculum and the experiences that we are offering children. The staff have agreed that the experiences should have a greater curriculum focus – before, during and afterwards (making them more useful and meaningful). This does take a little time, so please be patient, and don't worry, we will ensure that payment plans are manageable.

Dates – On Monday you will receive a calendar, which has firm dates until Christmas. This will be revised as more dates are confirmed later in the year.

Parents Evenings – These will be on Tuesday 1st & Thursday 3rd October and will be returning to face-to-face meetings in the school hall. The booking system is going live today. Teal Class' meetings will be on Tuesday 1st & Tuesday 8th October.

From the Admin Team

If your child is going to be absent, please
phone (01249) 812 608 or
email admin@priestley.wilts.sch.uk before 8.30am

Please discuss the new school meal menu with your children and ask for feedback on new choices. Please ask them to stick to their choices once made, each day, so that everyone gets what they have ordered.

Many thanks

Have a great weekend



Mr L Coles
Interim Headteacher