

Meet Spikey

Where did Spikey come from?

In a time, long, long ago, a mythical beast with incredible learning capabilities, was born in a Year 5 classroom at Priestley Primary School.

As part of a topic entitled 'Beast Creator', the children in Year 5 during the summer of 2015, were tasked with designing some beastly characters as part of an art session. Their mission was to create a creature that would have all the attributes in which to best survive in its chosen environment. Naturally, conversation turned to the school environment and what attributes a beast would need to succeed at Priestley. The chosen beast was subsequently named Spikey by the class and the rest, as they say, is history!!!!

Why was a scary beast chosen to represent learning at Priestley?

The children wanted to create a beast that would thrive at Priestley, and to thrive at Priestley you need to love learning. It was decided that Spikey would be the best visual representation of great learning at Priestley, because if Spikey can do it, anyone can do it, thus allowing any child to aspire to be like Spikey.

Did Spikey have any friends?

Initially, Spikey was accompanied by fellow beasts, Flower, Fang and Gluppy, who demonstrated different types of learners. However, in 2018 Spikey left the band and went solo – embarking on a developmental journey that now leaves him admired by our entire learning community.

So, what does Spikey actually do?

Spikey is everywhere around the school, Spikey is there to constantly remind us of the 7 values that we all need to remember to succeed, not only in school but also outside school as well. When we see Spikey, we should be reminded that we should have '**Respect for all**'. This is the overriding theme, the main priority, the umbrella that the other 6 traits sit under. If we all show respect for everyone and everything, we can help make our world a happier place.

Alongside showing '**Respect for all**' we are reminded of the other six values that will help us thrive and enjoy new experiences.



**Give it a go.
Think things through.
Share great ideas.
Cooperate.
Take responsibility.
Stay focused.**

Where else does Spikey appear in school?

Aspiring to be Spikey plays a massive part in daily life at Priestley. Firstly, our assemblies are all tied to Spikey and how we can look for ways to be Spikey and help others to be Spikey.

Spikey also encompasses all our rewards in school. We have our very own Spikey stickers which are given to us when we are observed by an adult to display Spikey values. The Spikey sticker is awarded for a specific value e.g. '**staying focused**' and not just "doing my writing". We have special 'Spikey Notes Home' and shiny Spikey Celebration Book stickers. If our learning is incredibly impressive and we have worked particularly hard using more than one Spikey value, we may receive a 'Spikey Postcard' through the post – this comes as

a total surprise. Every week, our teacher awards a 'Spikey Star of the Week' in Celebration Assembly. We all try to be the 'Star of the Week' because if we are then we stand a chance of winning 'Spikey's Star of the Term', which is super special. We also even have our own Spikey pencils, pens and rubbers that can be won for winning the termly Spikey ticket raffle. We get the Spikey tickets for Spikey choices during the term.

What does everyone else feel about Spikey?

If you do Spikey writing, you get a Spikey sticker. If you think things through, you get a Spikey sticker.

Reception pupil

"Definitely – when I think about Spikey it gets me through hard moments and helps me think things through."

Yr2 pupil

"When I am stuck, I look at the Spikey board and it helps me get on and figure things out."

Yr4 pupil

"Spikey makes me give it a go and think things through when I look at the Spikey board."

Yr5 pupil

"I need Spikey when I have doubt in myself. I look at the board to see which trait will help me – usually it is stay focused or give it a go."

Yr6 pupil

Does Spikey help you outside of school?

"Yes actually. When something gets in my way, I just stay focused and ignore it."

Yr3 pupil

"Yes, Spikey does basically everywhere – like last night I was doing badminton and I wasn't winning but I pushed through and kept giving it a go."

Yr4 pupil

"When I am at my house my brother shouts at me, so I think things through and ignore him and walk upstairs."

Yr6 pupil

