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

Newsletter No 9

Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

Like most people, at the beginning of a New Year, it's great to have a think about how things are going, and to see how we can make them better. We do have to be careful, and set realistic goals so that they are achievable – as anyone who has not stuck to their New Year's resolutions will agree.

There are two reasons for saying this:

1 - You should have been sent access to a questionnaire about how you think the school is doing, and what you think would make it even better. Please do complete it – we've kept it really short so your not tempted to put it off until later, and then forget about it. Your views are really important to us.

2 - Social media will tell you that next week starts with Blue Monday, and that you will be miserable. You don't have to be, after all, Blue Monday was only started as a marketing campaign for a travel company.

However, it is a chance to talk about mental health; if you can, talk to friends and family to share feelings, do something that makes you feel better (like exercise or a hobby) and be realistic about what you can get done.

Reception & Year 1

Happy New Year. The children have made a great start to this term. It has been wonderful to see all the positivity.

We have engaged in performance poetry about different creatures and used this to create our own versions.

In Maths, our Reception pupils of the class have been getting to grips with conceptual subitizing and part, part, wholes.



We love any opportunity to follow the children's interests, and in Ducklings, a particular highlight of the week was a wedding. Some of our younger children set up a wedding during child-initiated learning time and were very busy designing and writing invitations and finding outfits for the ceremony.

Year 1 have been using their computer skills to open applications on a computer.

The children were introduced to the work of Henri Matisse and took inspiration from "The Snail" to create their own collage.



Pufflings

Pufflings started this term with a bang. We went minibeast hunting to see what minibeasts we could find. The children then used their experiences in Geography to draw a map of where they went exploring. This map included its very own key as well as any minibeasts the children saw. Pufflings were introduced to the work of Henri Matisse and took inspiration from "The Snail" to create their very own collage picture. In Computing we have been using our computing skills to open and close applications on a computer.



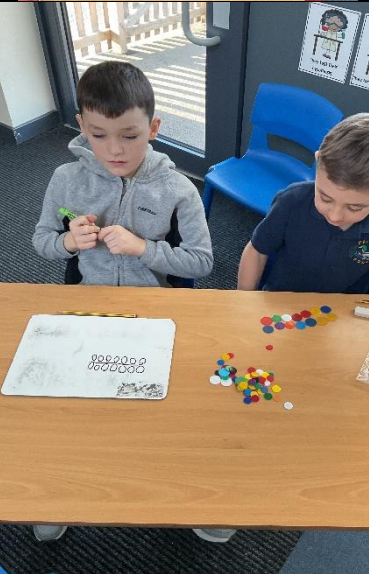
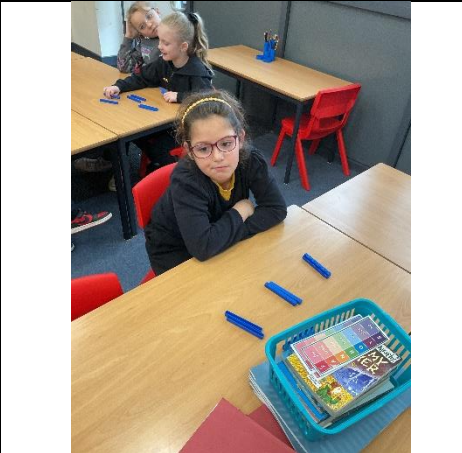
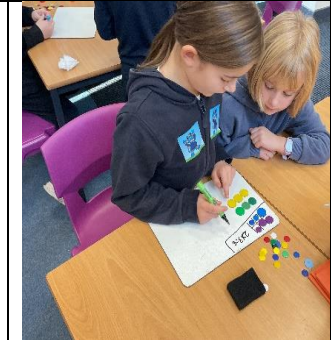
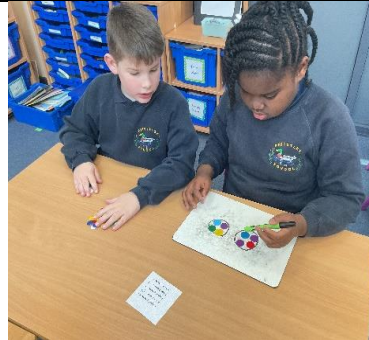
Years 2 & 3

We had a great time in our Dantastic Workshop all about superheroes and villains. We learnt about what it takes to be a superhero and discovered that anyone who helps people can be a superhero in their own way. We enjoyed exploring some of their special costumes and the equipment they use to help them.





In Maths we have been looking at multiplication and division. We have been using grouping and sharing to help us think about making equal groups.



We have enjoyed starting our new book for this term "The Hundred and One Dalmations" linked to our topic of Heroes and Villians. The children enjoyed making their own version of Cruella de Vil.



Years 4 & 5

In the last week of the 2024 term, we held a Priestley and Proud afternoon and welcomed several families to Curlew. The children thoroughly enjoyed talking through their favourite aspects of learning during the term, whether it was Pharaohs or Road Trip USA. Here are some memories of that occasion.



At the start of Term 3, we used ribbons (and clothing) to create extended movement sequences that reflected a battle. We pretended to be Magnus (or any Anglo-Saxon Warrior) and completed a movement sequence that included different levels, ways of travelling and leaps. We had to get ready, march to the battleground and then attack our enemy. Did we survive? Have a look to find out.



Year 6

For the next six weeks, we are very lucky to be joined on a Friday by the Decider Skills team. They will be working with the children on handling different emotions. This week, we thought about ourselves as fizzy pop. We don't start a feeling at the exploding stage. We can recognise feelings leading up to that point.



We were very lucky to be joined by Dantastic. He talked to us about the polar regions and different polar explorers. The children were able to ask lots of questions and touch different artefacts.



A Year 6 quick thought...

It's great that children want to be at school early; please remember that the gates open at 8.25am, and that, before then, there is no on-site supervision of children who are not in breakfast club.

....or two

One of our jobs is to prepare children for secondary school and life afterwards, and we do it by getting them to do new or uncomfortable things, whilst being supported by familiar faces – so that they can face challenges when surrounded by other people who are new to them once they leave Priestley.

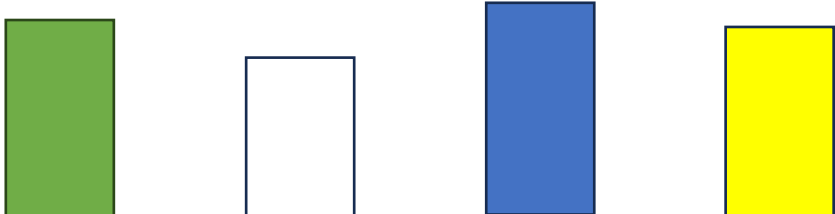
We all know that we had to do things we didn't like when young – but that was part of growing up and helped us to develop resilience. Please don't ask us to excuse your children from things that they don't want to do – unless there's a medical reason. Children need resilience before they go to secondary school, otherwise it's going to be a much more significant transition.

One final thought...

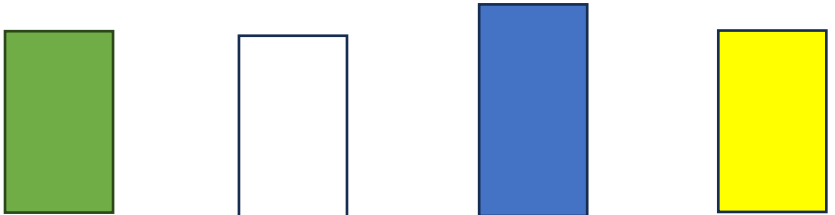
If your child has school lunches, please go through the menu with them to see what they like and are happy to eat – we're having quite few who are getting upset because they don't like the choice that's been made for them – and would prefer the other option.

Scores and Rewards

Team Points:



Team Points this week	482	394	525	443
	Bowood Green	Gases White	Oxygen Blue	Duck Yellow



Team Points so far	3472	3410	3992	3467
	Bowood Green	Gases White	Oxygen Blue	Duck Yellow

Spikey Points by Class:

Ducklings	Goslings	Pufflings	Eider	Sandpiper	Teal	Curlew	Avocet	Kingfisher	Mallard
71	0	302	158	134	105	327	284	240	171

Attendance by Class:

Ducklings	Goslings	Pufflings	Eider	Sandpiper	Teal	Curlew	Avocet	Kingfisher	Mallard
94.45	93.28	96.88	96.70	94.39	94.28	96.32	96.44	96.84	96.49

School Average 95.73%

Congratulations to Pufflings Class, who had the best attendance this week – and will be sitting on the benches in assembly next week. Don't forget how important being in school is to let children learn and build social skills – which will help them throughout their lives.

Have a great weekend.

L Coles

Luke Coles
Interim Headteacher