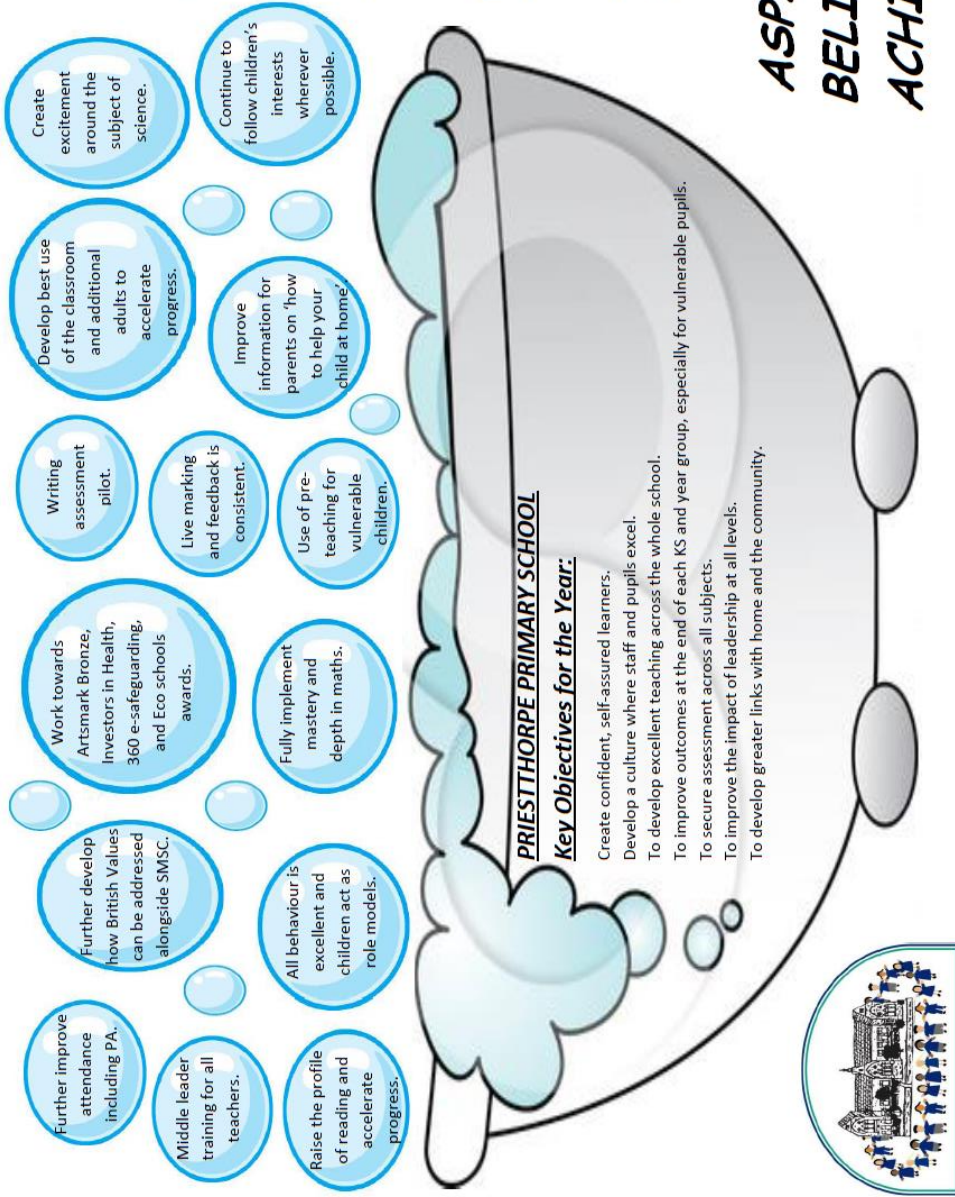


School Development Summary 2016/2017

**ASPIRE
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE**



Priestthorpe Primary School

Newsletter for Parents

July 2016



Dear Parents, as we approach the end of another school year, this newsletter aims to inform you about a lot of important changes which are in place ready for September. Please read this very carefully and do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions.

Transition and Staffing

This summer, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Cook, Miss Jackson and Mrs Phillips. They all have new positions to move onto and we will be saying farewell to them in assemblies this week. A reminder that many teachers are changing year group this year and that we also have a new recruit for our Year 6 class.

Nursery	Miss Long
Reception	Miss Hacking
Year one	Mrs Sumpter/Mrs Noonan
Year two	Miss Owen
Year three	Miss Harrison
Year four	Mr Carr
Year five	Mrs Cork
Year six	Mr Waddington
PPA cover	Mrs Cartman (Y5 and Y6) Mrs Eccles (Rec to Y4) Kanga Sports

Homework

Come September, children will continue to learn their maths facts (learn its) and have their weekly test alongside this.

We will also be continuing with spell its. All children from Y1 to Y6 will bring home a set of spellings. English teaching will focus on the spelling patterns and then the children will have a test the following week.

Children will keep their own spelling log of the words they are still not spelling correctly during writing sessions.

Reading at home is crucial to your child's development. Therefore, all children will continue to have daily reading of their school reading book as homework. Some teachers may also ask that something creative and cross-curricular is completed over the course of a half-term.

A HUGE THANK YOU!!

As we reach the end of another year I would like to express my thanks and sincere gratitude for all the parental and family support we have received this year. We are always grateful for your help and assistance on trips and visits and any assistance at events in school. We have had a huge increase in volunteers this year and if any of you are interested in becoming regular volunteers then please see Mrs Cartman or contact the school office.

It has been three years since I was appointed here at Priestthorpe and we have had three years of incredible change. Staffing, Governance and school as a whole has changed enormously over this period. We have much more planned as we continue to improve the school and we will keep you updated as we move forward.

It was a pleasure to read every single child's report and reflect on what wonderful children we have here at Priestthorpe. Your children really are a credit to you. Despite everything the Government has thrown at us this year and the enormous rise in expectations across the board, your children have done you and school proud. They all deserve a well-earned rest.

Appreciation should also be extended to the wonderful and committed team of staff we now have here in school. Always looking at ways to improve, always listening and working together to improve the education of every child we have the great pleasure of teaching.

Heartfelt thanks to ALL who contribute to making Priestthorpe a success.

School Development Plan

Autumn term puts us back in the window for an Ofsted inspection. It will be two years in October since our last visit and the majority of schools are re-inspected between 24-27 months. We have had a very busy two years and we are more than ready for them to return. I thought I would share with you the overview of our new School Development Plan on the back page of this newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, then please do see me in the playground.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Mrs C Gunning – Headteacher



Y3 out and about.



Meeting the Brownlee brothers.



Winning the 4LC maths competition.

Raising the profile of reading

Next year we would like to look at the development of children's reading across the whole school. We have purchased a new reading record for all children and we will be continuing with the weekly reading lesson which began this year. These lessons focus on the skills required to answer questions about a text. They require the children to read an age appropriate text and then extract the information they need to answer questions, offer explanations and provide examples which exemplify their responses.

In addition to this, we are incorporating daily reading sessions into the school week. All parents/carers who drop their children off in the morning are welcome to come and join us for the first 15 minutes to read with their own child or with a group in class. All teachers will use the time to read with children on a one to one basis and pick up on any strategies they are currently working on as a class. **If you would like to join us then please add yourself to the end of the class line and follow your children in to class. I look forward to seeing you all in school!**

The teaching of mathematics

As a school, over the course of this year, we have been working towards a mastery approach to the teaching of maths. This means that we spend a number of weeks on each strand of maths, until we are sure that the children have mastered the content. We will then dip back into each strand during morning work each day to revise taught or previous content. Over the course of a week, children will be re-visiting content on place value, written calculations, mental calculations, fractions and either geometry, statistics or measures. However, the teaching will focus on one specific strand.

Each week of teaching begins with a pre-assessment done by all children. This determines which group the children work within for that particular objective. A small group of identified children will receive pre-teaching each day from the class teacher during assembly time. This is to ensure that they can access the maths content for their own year group. The children will then work through mastery activities; the more able will be thinking deeper and be involved in activities at greater depth. The focus of maths lessons will be on aiming high, thinking carefully, having a go, making mistakes and learning from them. Children will have to do a lot of puzzling, investigating and thinking in order that they apply their maths knowledge.

We will continue to teach Big Maths every day and if you want support with the learn its at home, all the powerpoints, from which to revise the content are on our website.

Use of teaching assistants

From September the classrooms in years 2-6 will be set out in a specific way, to allow teachers and teaching assistants to work together in a more productive manner. Teaching assistants will have a much broader overview of the whole class and be more instrumental in the learning and progress during lessons. Live marking during the lessons will allow for editing and corrections at the point of learning and much greater opportunities for dialogue and feedback. Effective feedback is one of the most powerful ways of moving children forwards in their learning; our new way of working will ensure that every valuable mistake counts as a step forward.

Growth Mindset

From September, as a whole school, we will be thinking about how we approach learning and how we encourage the children to have a growth mindset. This means that they aim to approach all that they learn with enthusiasm and with an acceptance that it may challenge their thinking. They will learn to appreciate, that through hard work and perseverance, they will reach their goal.

We will be working from the 5 principles illustrated on the next page. There are two types of mindset – growth and fixed.

If you have a growth mindset then you are open to challenge and excited by learning new things with an acceptance that it may be hard to achieve but it will be worth it.

If you have a fixed mindset then you prefer to be able to do something straight away and find perseverance tricky.

We will be exploring this with all of the children and working together to develop our mindsets and to figure out how to work collaboratively to improve all learning opportunities. We believe that this will encourage resilience in our children and will help to develop a love of exciting learning opportunities. We are very aware that the world is moving at a fast pace and we are preparing our children for careers that may not even exist at the moment. By ensuring that our children are independent and confident learners, we are equipping them for a life-long enjoyment of learning. Our work on Growth Mindsets is based on the research of Carol Dweck.



Y5 Malham trip.



Y6 messing about on the river



Y1 at St Ives.



Reception on a dinosaur hunt on the school field.



Y4 caught in the hail stones at Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



Reception on the beach.

Do you have a Growth Mindset?

I persevere when things get tricky.		Pete Persevere
I support and encourage my friends.		Emily Encourage
I like to challenge myself and take risks.		Charlie Challenge
I thrive on feedback.		Fiona Feedback
I know I have to work hard to improve.		Isaac Improve

I'm not telling you it's going to be **easy!**
 I'm telling you it's going to be **WORTH IT.**

Buildings and proposed works

During the summer, the girls toilets are having a complete makeover. They are to be fitted with brand new cubicles, toilets and basins. There will be an element of bright pink and they will be newly decorated and re-floored. The girls have been discussing the paint samples for a couple of weeks and are excited about the transformation.

Assemblies

Due to the slight change to mornings in September, all assemblies will be at 10am. This includes Friday's celebration assembly. Parents will still be invited by text if their child is receiving an award.

Uniform

Could I respectfully remind parents of our uniform policy as listed below. We expect that all children wear the correct uniform and this includes the correct footwear. Plain black trainers are permitted for boys, but they are not to have any branding on them which is visible. Girls too must be in footwear which is black. We have had a number of children this year, who despite reminders, have continued to wear footwear which is not in our school uniform policy. As of September, children not in the correct footwear will be sent to the office to collect a pair of black pumps to wear for the day. Whilst we realise that some of you may object to this, if you send your child to school in the correct footwear, this will not be an issue. It is unfair that most people adhere to the policy when some choose to ignore it.

The Priestthorpe Primary School uniform consists of:

- Royal blue round neck school sweatshirt/cardigan
- Emerald polo shirt
- Grey trousers / skirt / pinafore dress
- Grey socks (boys), white socks (girls) / grey tights in winter
- Black flat heeled school shoes or **PLAIN black** trainers

There is also an optional Summer uniform for girls consisting of:

- Green and white or blue and white checked school dress and cardigan

The Priestthorpe Primary School PE kit consists of:

- White T-shirt
- Navy or black shorts
- Trainers or pumps
- A jumper and some tracksuit bottoms/leggings for outdoor PE

Health and safety in PE

Long hair must be tied up for PE and stud earrings removed or taped up by the children. Also, no PE kit will mean that a child will miss PE.

Balls, bikes and scooters

We have reminded the children this week that no balls or other equipment should be brought into school from home. Any equipment required during the school day is provided by school.

We understand that some children bring balls to play with at the end of the day, but this is not permitted out of school hours. Scooters and bikes are also not to be ridden in the playground before or after school.

The playground is not available for use after school due to health and safety regulations. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter as unsupervised games have led to younger children being injured.

Minibuses

Our minibuses (shared with our 4LC colleagues) have proved a great success, ensuring a variety of low cost local trips and cross-curricular opportunities. This is something we mean to continue and teachers are encouraged to use them at every feasible opportunity.

Memories

There are so many this year but we just wanted to share a flavour of what the children have been up to.

Nursery at St. Ives.



Y2 shed of the year competition. We didn't win, but we were very proud of their entry.