****

**Priestthorpe Primary School**

Mornington Road, Bingley, BD16 4JS

Headteacher: Christina Gunning

Tel: 01274 564879

Email: office@priestthorpe.org

Website: <http://priestthorpe.eschools.co.uk/website>

Wednesday 9th September 2015

Dear Parents

Thank you for the positive start to the year, the children are rising to the new challenges and our new staff have been made to feel very welcome.

**Homework**

There are changes to homework this year which some of you will have seen already. Children in KS2 have been given a published book for their maths and English homework. They will complete a page from each on a weekly basis and it will usually follow the topics taught in class that week. The homework books are based on the government expectations for each year group and some of the work may be slightly more challenging than previously. Therefore children may require support in order to complete the tasks. It makes it very clear to you as parents what the new expectations look like but if you have any questions please see your class teacher. The books were bought at a significant cost to school so we do ask that the children take very good care of them and replace them if they are lost or damaged.

**Spellings**

All children in Years 1-6 will receive weekly spellings and be tested on a Friday. Spelling is a real focus for us this year and you will see from the words sent home that the expectations on the children are high. Again, these are expectations set by the government so please try to support your child in learning their spellings.

**Learn its**

All children will also continue with the learn its and should bring home their test sheet weekly for you to see. Please select 3 facts a week to try to learn in order that your child continues to improve.

**Attendance**

We talk to the children about the importance of each school day and reward the class with the best attendance each week. Attendance is an important factor during an Ofsted inspection too. There are 190 school days and each and every one counts. All non-emergency medical appointments should be made out of school hours including all routine dentist appointments. All holidays should be taken in the school holidays as no annual leave will be authorised. We do still authorise short absences for extenuating circumstances, but each request is looked at on an individual basis and the children’s attendance is taken into account when authorising the absence.

**Assemblies**

Perfect presentation certificates will be awarded in assembly on a Monday. Any outside achievements should now be brought into school for Wednesday assemblies. You will continue to receive a text to invite you to assembly at 10.35am on a Friday if your chid is awarded Good work or Star of the week certificate.

**Fruit**

This year we are working towards a number of awards for school, including Investors in Health. The free fruit for Early Years and KS1 will continue however there has been a slight delay this term. If you want to provide a snack of fresh fruit or vegetables in the interim then please do and we will let you know as soon as it becomes available. All children in KS2 are encouraged to bring in a snack but it should only be a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables and not a cereal bar.

**School shoes**

Thank you to all parents who have sent their children back to school in the correct footwear. There are however still children in brightly coloured footwear which is not part of our school uniform. All school footwear should be sensible and black please.

**Diary dates**

Below is a list of the diary dates we have so far. More will follow soon.

**September**

14.09.15 High School Open evening for Years 5 and 6 at school 6pm

23.09.15 Open drop in to look around the school building and see the

changes which have been made. 3.05 – 3.45

25.09.15 FOPPS event - sausage sizzle on the field 6pm

**October**

16.10.15 Harvest festival in church 1.30pm

21.10.15 Y2 class assembly 9.00am

21.10.15 FOPPS event – disco night tbc

23.10.15 Half term begins

**November**

2.11.15 Back to school

4.11.15 Parent consultation evening 2-7pm

**December**

2.12.15 Y3 class assembly 9am

5.12.15 FOPPS event – Christmas Fair pm

9.12.15 KS1 Nativity 9.15/5pm

10.12.15 Early Years Nativity 9.30am

11.12.15 Christmas Dinner

15.12.15 EYFS Christmas party am, Y1/Y2 Christmas party pm

16.12.15 Y3/Y4 Christmas party pm

17.12.15 Y5/Y6 Christmas party pm

18.12.15 Carol service in church 1.30pm

18.12.15 Christmas holiday starts

Yours sincerely

Mrs Christina Gunning - Headteacher