

# PRESTLEY POST

Summer Term - 23.07.2025



**HORIZONS**  
EDUCATION TRUST



**EDUCATE EMPOWER ENRICH ENJOY**

Dear Prestley Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up our very first year, it's the perfect time to look back and celebrate everything we've achieved together. What an amazing journey it's been! It's been a real privilege for all of us to help build this school from the ground up and create something truly special.

This year has been full of learning, growth, and most importantly, a strong sense of community. We're so proud to share that 100% of our families and staff have told us they feel our school is a positive and safe place. That really speaks to the care, teamwork, and dedication that make our school what it is.

We're especially proud that our pupil attendance is well above the national average for similar special schools. Considering that half of our young people were not in full-time education before joining us, this is a powerful reminder of how vital it is to get the right provision, where every child feels understood, valued and supported to thrive.

We started with 70 pupils, and next year we'll be welcoming 30 more—bringing us to 100! Alongside that, 21 new staff members will be joining our team. As we grow, we're excited about all the new opportunities and experiences we'll be able to offer our pupils. We're committed to keeping our curriculum rich, inclusive, and engaging for every learner.

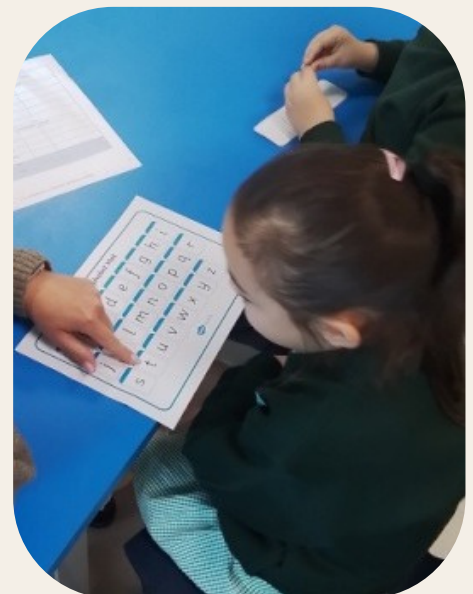
Working closely with you—our parents and carers—has been such an important part of our success. Your support, feedback, and trust have helped shape the warm, nurturing environment we have today. Please keep sharing your thoughts with us through parent surveys, coffee mornings, or workshops—we really value your input.

Looking ahead, we are filled with joy and optimism for the future. We are excited to continue walking alongside our learners as they grow into adulthood and prepare for happy, fulfilling futures.

Thank you for being such an important part of our first chapter. We're so excited to see what next year brings!

Have a wonderful summer break.

Caroline



# Prestley Wood AAG



## Thank You to Our AAG Members

### And an Invitation for you to Join for 2025–2026!

As we approach the end of our first year at Prestley Wood Academy, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our current Academy Advisory Group (AAG) members. Your dedication, insight, and support have been instrumental in shaping our school's journey so far. From championing our values to guiding key decisions, your contributions have made a real difference - and we are truly grateful.

Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 academic year, we are now inviting expressions of interest for new members to join the AAG. This is a vital role in the life of our school. The AAG acts as a critical friend to the leadership team, helping to ensure we remain accountable, inclusive, and ambitious for every child.



#### Why join?

- Be part of shaping the future of Prestley Wood Academy
- Represent the voice of parents/carers and the wider community
- Support school improvement and student success
- Gain valuable experience in governance and education

Our school cannot run without a strong and committed governing body. If you're passionate and want to make a meaningful impact, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information or to express your interest, please contact Jo Tregent at [jtregent@prestleywood.org.uk](mailto:jtregent@prestleywood.org.uk)

Together, we can continue to grow a school we're all proud of.



# Our Prestley Family

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## Our Local Community

A few of you eagle eyed, may have seen that construction has officially begun on the second school provision next door to us. Fencing has now been erected, and groundwork is well underway. It's fantastic to see this exciting development taking shape, and we look forward to discovering how much progress has been made when we return to school in September 2025.

This new building will provide valuable opportunities for our pupils in the future—enhancing their learning environment and supporting their educational journey in fresh and meaningful ways.



# Cherry Class



The Cherry class team can't quite believe that our first year at Prestley is coming to an end.

We are amazed at what the children have accomplished this year, with both their academic progress and their personal, social and emotional development. To see so many of our children accessing an off-site trip was truly amazing. We are so proud of their confidence and the trust they have placed in us as we have been getting to know them this year.

In the classroom, the children have impressed us even further. We have noticed high levels of engagement in learning tasks and a willingness to try new things. Our favourite shared activities have been Messy Maths and Attention Autism, but we have loved shared experiences like dancing to action songs and learning some Makaton signs too.

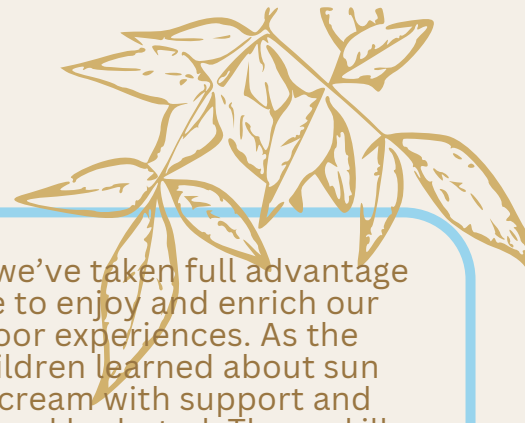
It has been so exciting to see new methods of communication unlocked for our lovely learners, with children now making choices for snack time, requesting toys during choosing time and indicating they want activities to continue. The best bit of all has been seeing huge smiles and hearing lots of giggles as their understanding and anticipation skills improve.

We are so proud of all the children for a fantastic first year in school. We can't wait to see what else they achieve as they move through school.

Amy



# Apple Class



This term in Apple Class, we've taken full advantage of the summer sunshine to enjoy and enrich our learning through outdoor experiences. As the weather warmed up, children learned about sun safety by applying sun cream with support and finding ways to stay cool and hydrated. These skills have helped the children remain regulated and engaged during the hotter days, supporting both well-being and independence.



Our park visits have been a particular highlight! These trips provided fantastic opportunities to practise accessing the community safely. The children developed their road safety awareness, learning to respond to verbal and visual instructions and understanding boundaries to help keep themselves and others safe. The children have been encouraged to express their needs, follow instructions, and engage socially with both peers and adults, helping to build their communication skills.



Our physical development has flourished as children explored climbing frames, balance equipment, and open space, building strength, coordination, and confidence. We've also seen great progress in turn-taking and sharing during group play. Water play and ice exploration have captivated imaginations, offering rich, hands-on experiences that support fine motor skills, explore capacity (My Reasoning), and introduce early scientific concepts (Our World), such as melting and temperature.

It's been a joy to watch the children grow in confidence this term. Wishing you all a safe and happy summer!

Danielle



# Pear Class



This half term, our topic has been People That Help Us, and we've had so much fun exploring the many important jobs that everyday heroes do in our communities. The children loved role-playing as doctors and nurses, showing such care and kindness as they helped look after one another. We also stepped into the shoes of police officers and firefighters, racing to put out imaginary fires and keep everyone safe. We've been very busy!

One of the highlights was learning about road safety. We focused on the importance of stopping, looking, and listening, and enjoyed lots of role play—taking turns as cars, traffic lights, and lollipop people. The learning really came to life during our walk to the park, where we put all those new skills into practice.

We also had a great time diving into the book *Emergency*, which helped us explore the roles of the people around us even further. Alongside this, we continued developing our Makaton skills, learning the signs for many of the helpers we've been learning about. We have also been improving our My Communication by using digital literacy to support our learning of phonics.

A big celebration this term was Prestley Wood's first birthday! Pear Class loved grooving at the silent disco, then playing classic party games like musical statues, pass the parcel, and — a definite favourite — whacking the pear-shaped piñata that we all helped to make.

As we come to the end of our first year together in Pear Class, I couldn't be prouder of how much each child has grown, achieved, and enjoyed throughout the year. It's been a truly fantastic journey filled with laughter, learning, and so many memorable moments.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer break!

Shirelle



# Ash Class



Ash class have had a very busy and productive half term! We have taken part in many heuristic play sessions, which are based around curiosity, and on a child's developing ability to experiment and find out for themselves with natural objects. We have seen their imaginations come to life by building things, creating sounds and imaginary play. Also, their ability to play alongside each other and interact with each other has improved.

A highlight of the term was our exciting trip to Johnson's Zoo. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the forest areas and observing a wide variety of animals up close—from meerkats and bears to crocodiles! They learned about different habitats and animal behaviours, which supported our learning in My Communication and My Reasoning,

Ash Class have had a fantastic year, making incredible progress and truly settling into life at Prestley Wood. We are so proud of everything they've achieved.

We wish you all a great summer holidays!

Sinead



# Magnolia Class



In Our World, we looked at rockets, and the children loved watching videos of Neil Armstrong jumping on the moon (with lots of giggling as he sang!). We practised our own countdowns and liftoffs using the stomp rocket, which was lots of fun.

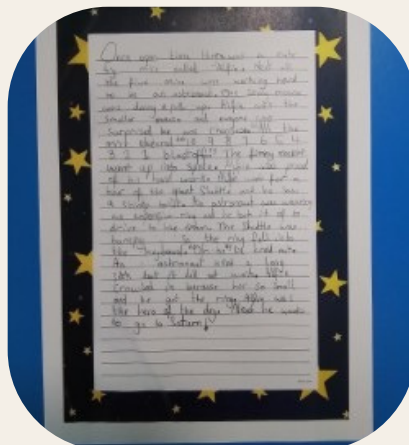
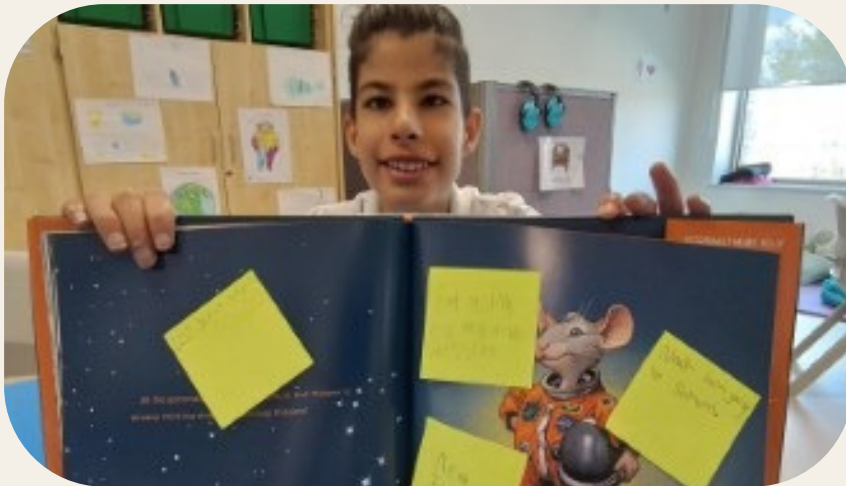
In My Creativity, we used a range of 3D resources to build our own rockets. We rolled marbles in paint to create our own textured planets.

In My Communication, a few of the children mark-made pictures linked to our story, which helped to develop picture-drawing skills. Our book, Mousetronaut, inspired other children to write their own versions.

We've had an incredible year, with lots of progress made, and finished it off with a silent disco to celebrate this and all the friendships in Magnolia Class.

Have a lovely summer and good luck next year!

Katie



# Chestnut Class



Chestnut Class have continued working on our topic of Weather. We have been reading Storm Chasers as our class text this half term and have enjoyed following Team X on their mission to thwart The Collector's dastardly plans.

We have been exploring directions and coordinates, making oobleck, designing kites, creating weather measuring instruments, and designing and building dens using all our My Reasoning skills and then talking about it in My Communication.

Our real highlights of this half term have to be our visit to Johnson of Old Hurst and celebrating Prestley Wood Academy's first birthday! Have a wonderful summer!

Rae



# Silver Birch Class



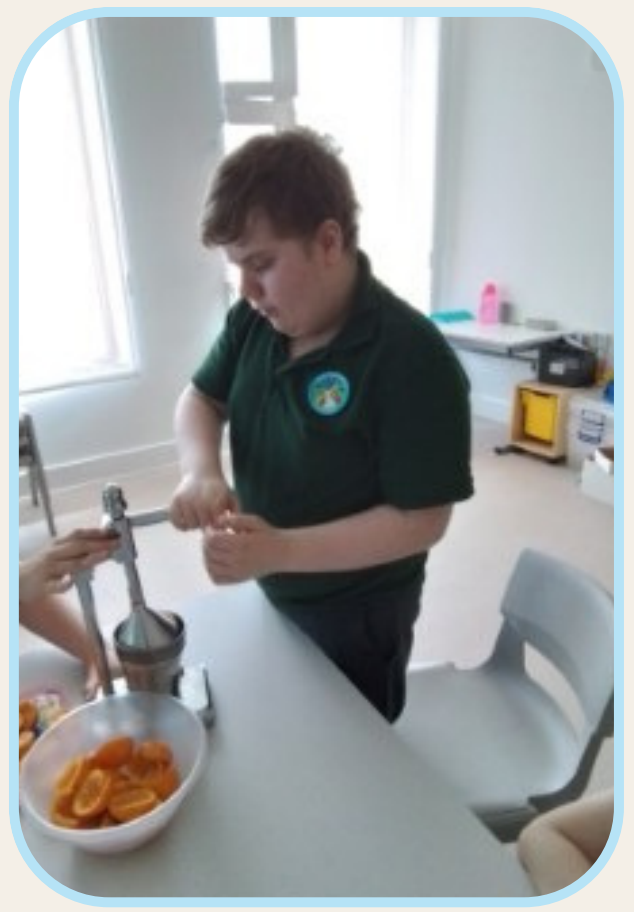
This Term, Silver Birch has been putting their resilience and perseverance to the test. As part of 'Our World' and 'Myself', we have been on a couple of outings to Grafham Water where we have been working as a team to solve problems and supporting each other climbing the high ropes.

We have been looking at a variety of topics in 'My Reasoning', including temperature, capacity, fractions and coordinates.

In 'My Communication', we have been developing our writing skills and learning about punctuation and word classifications.

Overall, it has been a fantastic first Year at Prestley Wood Academy, and we are excited to see what next year brings!

Mili





## School Council – Celebrating a Successful Year

As we wrap up another vibrant half term, our school council is proud to reflect on a year of growth, collaboration, and community spirit.

This half term, we've strengthened our connections with a nearby school, sharing ideas and forging relationships that will continue to benefit both communities. We've also taken time to explore our local area, deepening our understanding of the people and places that surround us.

One of our proudest contributions has been supporting the Alconbury Weald Community Garden next to our school – offering fresh energy, helping hands, and a sense of stewardship that we hope inspires others.

Through our regular meetings, we've provided a platform for students to share ideas, and from these discussions came the creative spark for activities and events to mark our very first birthday. It's been a joy to see everyone come together in celebration of what we've achieved and the exciting possibilities ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making this year so successful. Here's to even more collaboration, creativity, and community in the terms to come with the next year's School Council, which will be elected when we return in the Autumn term.

Mandy

## Prestley Woods 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Stalls



# Forest School



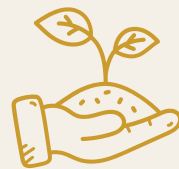
This term at Prestley Wood Academy's forest school, we've been exploring our natural environment in alignment with our Eco Schools criteria.

This term in Forest School, the Cherry, Apple, and Pear classes engaged their senses in a hands-on planting activity. Pupils explored the essential components needed to grow a plant—soil, seeds, plant pots, and water. With great care and curiosity, they placed seeds into pots filled with soil, ready to nurture them and observe their growth over time. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature and learn about the life cycle of plants in a active and meaningful way.

Ash Class ventured into the local community for a nature-themed scavenger hunt. Pupils explored their surroundings in search of natural materials such as flowers, bark, leaves, and stones. Using picture cards, they carefully matched each object they found to its corresponding image. It was a fantastic way to engage with nature, develop observation skills, and enjoy learning outdoors!

Magnolia and Chestnut Class demonstrated fantastic independence during their Forest School session. Pupils confidently used a variety of real tools, including an electric drill, hammer, hacksaw, and palm drill. With careful guidance and a focus on safety, they explored how each tool works while developing their fine motor skills and problem-solving abilities. It was a brilliant opportunity to build confidence and practical skills in an outdoor setting.

Beth



## Water Safety in The Summer Holiday

Dear Parents and Carers,

As summer approaches, children, young adults and adults spend more time near water, we'd like to remind you how important water safety is.

Even shallow water can be dangerous, and accidents can happen quickly and quietly. Please take a moment to talk with your child and young adults about staying safe around water.

Key Water Safety Notes:

- Always supervise children and young adults near water—even at home.
- Stay away from the edge of rivers, lakes, and canals.
- Learn the Water Safety Code and teach it to your children and young adults:

### **Stop & Think – Stay Together – Float – Call 999**

- Be aware of local risks like cold water shock, strong currents, polluted water, hidden hazards and secondary drowning.
- Download the What3Words app to devices – it helps emergency services find your exact location if needed.

What Can You Do:

- Chat regularly with your child and young adult about water safety.
- Make sure they wear sun protection and suitable clothing.
- Be honest about their swimming ability—can they float, tread water, and swim 100m in clothes?
- Encourage them to stay with friends and avoid risky behaviour.

The Canal & River Trust also has great resources to help families stay safe—feel free to check them out:

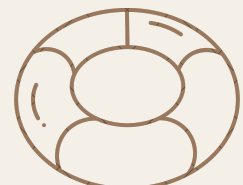
[Parent water safety tips](#)

[Teenagers and young adult safety tips](#)

[Summer water safety](#)

Thank you for helping us keep our children and learners safe this summer!

Tom

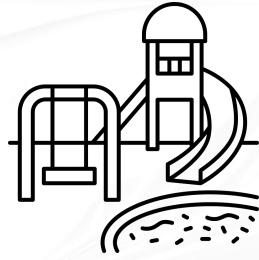


# Things to do in Summer

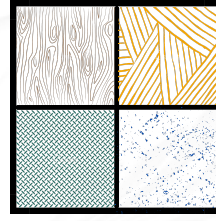
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Dance



Visit a Park



Sensory/Texture Adventure



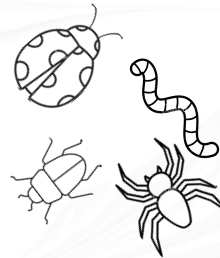
Imaginative Play



Listening Walk



Story Time or Book Look



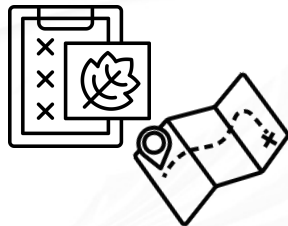
Minibeast Hunt



Shopping Help



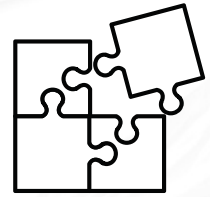
Water & Sand Play



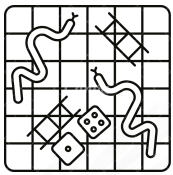
Scavenger or Treasure Hunt



Nature Walk



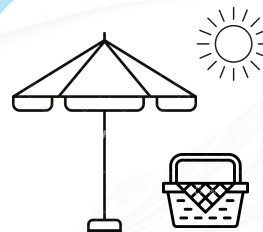
Puzzle Play



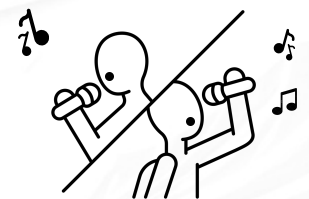
Board Games



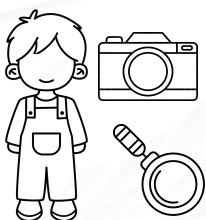
Sports



Garden Picnic



Sing



I Spy



Colouring/Mark Making



Flower Search



Garden Yoga

# Term Dates 2025 – 2026

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## Autumn Term 2025 (1 September to 19 December)

Staff training day: Monday 1 September

Staff training day: Tuesday 2 September

Staff training day: Wednesday 3 September

Autumn term opens: Thursday 4 September

**Half term: 27 - 31 October**

Staff training day: Monday 3 November

Autumn term closes: Friday 19 December

## Spring Term 2026 (5 January to 27 March)

Spring term opens: Monday 5 January

**Half term: 16 - 20 February**

Staff training day: Monday 23 February

Spring term closes: Friday 27 March

## Summer Term 2026 (13 April to 20 July)

Summer term opens: Monday 13 April

**Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May**

**May Half term: 25 May – 29 May**

Staff training day: Friday 3 July

Summer term closes: Monday 20 July

