



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Friday 10th November 2023

Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Collaboration



Communication



Creativity



Critical Thinking



Celebrations

This half term, we will be learning about celebrations and festivals. We will be talking about and answering the following:

1. Understand what a celebration is. Develop an understanding of different cultures and traditions.
2. Why, where, and how do people celebrate? Develop an understanding of similarities and differences.
3. What are my own celebration experiences and that of others? Develop respect for others and own understanding of their beliefs and values.
4. What is the significance of performing a Nativity?

The children enjoyed sharing their own experiences of different celebrations and we created a list of things that might occur during a celebration. For example, there might be a party with friends, family, decorations, food, fireworks, singing, dancing, and gifts.

This week, we focused our learning on Bonfire Night. The children have been talking about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot. Teaching children about historical events is important as it helps them to gain an understanding of time. Some of the vocabulary we have been using is November, Houses of Parliament, explode, plot, and past. The children talked about their own experiences of Bonfire Night. It was lovely to listen to their stories.

As part of home learning this week, please could you tell us about the different celebrations your family has enjoyed. These could be weddings, birthdays, religious festivals, christenings, anniversaries, or bonfire night. Please either send in or e-mail some photographs with an explanation about the celebrations or send us the details via Seesaw. We really appreciate your support; it really helps to have images from home to prompt discussion.

Seesaw



Responsibility



'I am Responsibility Rex. I am always in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. I am very good at looking after our environment and take care of all the equipment and people in our school. I am responsible for my own learning and enjoy reaching my targets. I like challenges and I am proud of the things I do in order to achieve them.'

Our school value focus this half term is Responsibility. We introduced the children to Responsibility Rex, our school value dinosaur. The children took part in a carousel of activities to discuss and learn about the different responsibilities they have in school and at home. We were very impressed with their ideas and understanding of responsibility.

The children visited the rabbit and guinea pigs, learning about their responsibilities to care for the school animals. The children discussed their responsibilities around the school and at home. They read the story 'Litterbug Doug' by Ellie Bethel and talked about their responsibility to look after the environment.

We will continue to learn about responsibility in school and we would love to see and hear about the responsibilities the children have at home. Please share a picture on Seesaw of your child demonstrating responsibility, i.e., laying the table, tidying their bedroom, making their bed.

Seesaw



Remembrance

This week, the children held a two-minute silence to remember those who have fought and lost their lives to protect us. We talked about the significance of the poppy and made our own poppies. The children demonstrated respect and responsibility.



Whatever Next

The children enjoyed reading the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. We learnt some new vocabulary linked to the book: voyage, adventure, discover, colander, pack, launch, soar, return, drip, gasp. We made the story come to life with props. The children (and adults) have enjoyed using these props during choosing learning. We have posted the story on Seesaw for you to enjoy. We will continue to explore the story in the coming weeks.

Seesaw



Seasons

This week, we went to the park to look at the big tree so that we could begin to observe the seasonal changes that happen in Autumn. We noticed the yellow, orange, red and brown leaves on the ground. We collected some of the fallen leaves to make closer observations. The children also enjoyed sliding down the grassy bank in their mud suits!



Read Write Inc



Before half-term, all children were assessed in phonics. Puffins and Penguins have now been split into smaller 'Read Write Inc' (RWI) groups so they can focus on their particular targets for reading. For example, some children will still be assigned oral blending activities on Seesaw and other children will bring material home in their bookbag to read. Every child's reading journey is unique, and we celebrate all their successes.

Your child's RWI teacher will provide your child with a phonics or reading activity to practise at home. This will either be posted on Seesaw or sent home with your child in their book bag.

Seesaw

If you have any questions about phonics, please do not hesitate to ask. We will continue to share information on your child's phonic journey.

PE

In PE this week the children were learning to stop safely and develop control when using equipment. They used a ball to push and roll with control. They practised dropping, throwing, and catching. The children were building confidence to try new challenges and persevere if they found them difficult. We always have lots of fun in PE.



Maths



Last week we held an early years maths workshop, talking to parents about the importance of Number Sense. We discussed the three main areas of number sense: complexities of counting, subitising, and composition of number. At the end of the presentation there was an opportunity for the children to take their parents into the classroom to try some of the many wonderful maths activities. It was brilliant to see the children so excited to share their mathematical understanding. Thank you to everyone who attended the event. It was wonderful to be able to share our passion for maths with so many families.

We have shared the Powerpoint slides from the event, any queries please do not hesitate to ask. Please complete the short feedback questionnaire if you attended. <https://forms.office.com/e/MHjDnhJTDJ>

This week the children began exploring number 4. They were looking for familiar patterns of four objects and trying to explain how they knew it was four i.e. 'I can see 2 and 2' 'it looks like 4 on a dice'. We will continue to explore 4 next week.



Art

We have been learning about self-portraits and what this means. The children looked at the features of their own face to draw detailed self-portraits. We talked about the shape of features and where they are located on the face. The children took great care and were very proud of their achievements. We will post the images on Seesaw soon.

Seesaw



Trip to St Pauls Church – Friday 24th November

Christmas is fast approaching, and we will soon be practising our Nativity. To support our learning, we will be taking the children to visit St Paul's Church to meet Rev Ruth. The children will have a tour of the church, learning about the different features. Rev Ruth will read the nativity story from the Bible and the children will have the opportunity to ask questions about why Christmas is important to Christians.

We are offering this trip free of charge as children will be walking to the church.

Please make sure they bring a coat to school.

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please see your child's class teacher.



Home Learning

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw - 'Whatever Next' read by Mrs Bastin
- E-mail or send in photographs of your family celebrating different occasions. Or you can send them via Seesaw. The e-mail address is foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk
- Send an image on Seesaw of your child demonstrating Responsibility at home.
- Check your child's book bag or Seesaw for phonics activities and reading to complete at home.
- Use your handwriting booklet to practise writing sounds. There is also a handwriting activity on Seesaw.
- Use the RWInc sound videos on Seesaw to practise reading sounds.

Seesaw

Activity assigned
on Seesaw.

Dates

- **Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th November** - Parent Meetings
- **Thursday 16th November** – SEND Roadshow
- **Friday 17th November** – Flu Vaccinations
- **Friday 24th November** – Trip to St Paul's Church
- **Friday 1st December** - FOPPS Bag2School Collection
- **Friday 8th December** – Children in non uniform/Christmas jumper. FOPPS Christmas Market after school.
- **Tuesday 12th December 9.30am** – Foundation Stage Nativity
- **Thursday 14th December** – FOPPS 'Elfridges shop.
- **Friday 15th December** – Whole school Christmas lunch. Meal must be ordered on Aspens.
- **Monday 18th December** – Christmas jumper day and Unit parties
- **Tuesday 19th December** – Last day of term.

Kind Regards, Mrs Bastin, Mrs Clague and the Foundation Stage Team