

Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Friday 24th November 2023

Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Collaboration



Communication



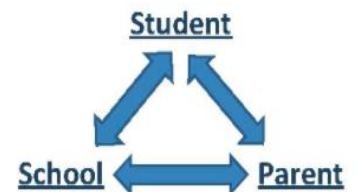
Creativity



Critical Thinking

Parent meetings

Thank you very much for taking the time to chat with us about your child's learning in your recent parent meeting. At Preston we believe that children make the most progress when school, the child and parents work together. It was wonderful to discuss your child's progress and talk about how they have settled in school.

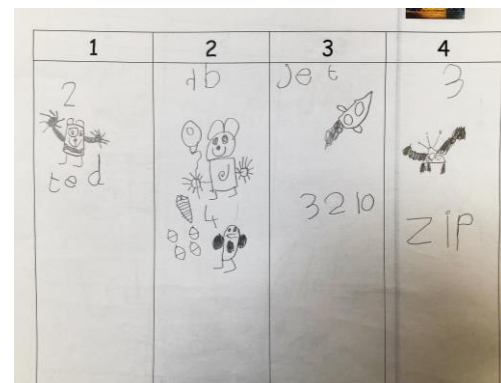


Woodland camp

We have been talking about the changes in the Seasons, and how birds often do not have enough food during the winter months, as bugs and berries are scarce. This week we followed instructions to make 'bird feeders'. We mixed together suet, bird seed, and cranberries and then added the mixture to pinecones. We hung them in trees in both the woodland camp and near our mud kitchen. Some of us have already spotted birds investigating and stopping for a snack! We have a very friendly robin who likes to visit every day to feed on the one in the mud kitchen. The birds are great fun to watch, and it is good to know that we are helping them! We linked this activity to talking about 'responsibility' for wildlife.



We have continued to explore the story book 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. We introduced a new technique called 'Drawing Club', in which children can innovate the original story and begin to change characters and events in order to make their own version of the story. The children are greatly enjoying having the freedom and creativity to adapt the story. They will then be able to orally retell their version.



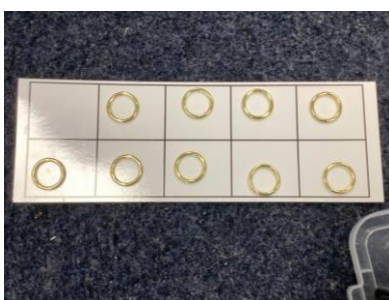
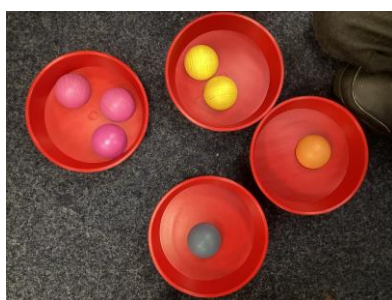
Next week, we will be making tasty jam sandwiches, just like Baby Bear did, so that we can have a picnic on the moon. We will have to follow the instructions and use vocabulary such as 'spread', 'cut', 'half' and 'quarters'.

Mathematics – Counting Collections

You will recall that you were contacted recently about your child taking part in a Maths project called 'Counting Collections'. We have been given lots of resources which are now on display in the classroom. Both classes have now done a few sessions and the children are loving it! We are already noticing an improvement in their oral communication and in their understanding of number.

The Counting Collections sessions follow a 5-part structure where children work in pairs to:

1. **Choose a collection together.** Each pair selects a box with a 'collection' of objects inside. This could be anything from feathers, to nuts and bolts, to golden eggs. Selecting a box together obviously involves skills such as negotiating and compromising.
2. **Strategise.** The adult models a different strategy to demonstrate how a collection could be organised so that we can easily see how many there are. For example, I might sort and group the collection into different colours or different shapes; or if the collection content is small and identical, I might organise them onto tens frames.
3. **Count the collection.** Working together, each pair has to find out 'how many' items are in their box. They line up the objects in their collection and count them to find the total.
4. **Organise their collection.** Each pair decides on the best 'tool' to organise and sort their collection, for example, a ten frame, some small pots, or a large mat.
5. **Record the count.** Children choose either a clipboard and paper or a whiteboard to 'draw what they see'. This is the first step in journalling by recording images and numerals.



Celebrations and Festivals - Diwali

Learning about different festivals, gives us an understanding of different cultures and traditions. This week we have been learning about the celebration of Diwali. Diwali is a festival of lights that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil.

We used salt dough to make our own Diya lamp pot, which was then baked in the oven to harden. We enjoyed painting our diya lamps in bright colours.

Rangoli is a popular Diwali tradition. These are beautiful patterns made using bright colours. People draw Rangoli on the floor by the entrance of their homes to welcome the gods and bring good luck. We created our own Rangoli patterns using chalk.



Celebrations and festivals - Nativity



Christmas is fast approaching, and we have started to practise our Nativity. The children have been told their part and next week they will be coming home with a line to learn. We have lots of costumes in school so you will not need to supply anything unless we specifically spoken to you. The children are very excited about performing the nativity for you!

We would like to invite you into school on Tuesday 12th December at 9:30am where the children will perform their Nativity for you. Due to capacity in the hall, we can only accommodate two adults per child.

There is lots happening in school during the festive period. You will have received an email from Admin on 16th November, detailing more of the events happening this term. At the end of this newsletter, we have also added these key dates.

Celebrations and festivals – Trip to Preston Pre-school

We have been invited to visit Preston Community Pre-school to watch their Nativity on Monday 4th December.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to watch a Nativity performance before performing their own. It will also mean that the children who went to the pre-school will get a chance to meet up with old friends and teachers.

We will transport the children in groups on a minibus. We will be returning in time for lunch, so lunchtime arrangements will be as normal. There is no cost to you for this trip.

Theatre trip

Earlier in the week, you will have received an email about our trip to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to see 'The Three Little Pigs'. The show is a mixture of both actors and puppetry. It will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to see live a performance of storytelling.

Final payment for this trip is by Friday 1st December.



Home Learning

- Enjoy listening to this week's story on Seesaw.
- Check your child's book bag or on Seesaw for phonics activities and reading.

Important Dates

For more details, please refer to the email which was sent from our Admin Office on 16th November.

- **Friday 24th November** – Trip to St Paul's Church.
- **Thursday 30th November** – Christmas Jumper Swap.
- **Friday 1st December** – Final payment date for Theatre Trip.
- **Friday 1st December** - FOPPS Bags2School Collection.
- **Monday 4th December** – Trip to Preston Community Pre-school to watch their Nativity.
- **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 in advance on Aspens.
- **Monday 18th December** – Christmas party day. Children can wear Christmas tops/jumpers with their usual school uniform.
- **Tuesday 19th December** – Last day of Autumn term.
- **Wednesday 3rd January** - First day of Spring term.

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