



Preston Primary School

Half Termly News

Issue 1: February 2024

We have reached the end of the half term and I certainly feel very proud of our school and everyone within it. The children's politeness and kindness to each other and to adults has been exemplary. The children walk around the school holding doors and greeting adults with smiles on their faces.

The children have worked extremely hard on their writing this half term. I have enjoyed visiting classrooms to read biographies about explorers in Unit 4, and non-chronological reports about birds in Unit 2. Unit 3 children amazed me with their use of expanded noun phrases and use of speech as they wrote a text in the style of the book *13 Words*. The transformation in handwriting across the school has been amazing.

It has been a great pleasure making phone calls home to celebrate children's hard work and achievements this half term. Thank you for your continued support. We hope that you all have a fantastic half term break. **Mrs Oliver**

Our School Values

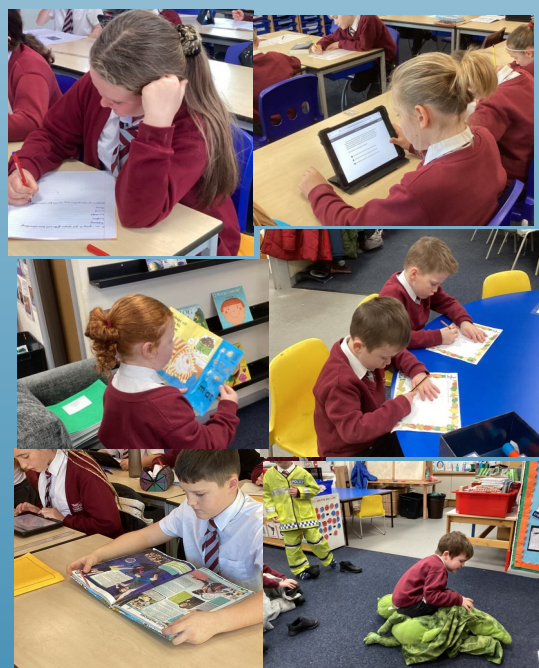


Our six school values are very important to us at Preston as they guide our thinking and our behaviour and are important throughout life.

This half term, the children have been working hard to show our value of 'Independence.' We have taught the children that being independent means you are good at having a go and trying different ways to solve problems, even if you find them tricky. The children know that being independent often means making mistakes but that is how we learn and grow. It has been wonderful to see so many children being awarded the class cups for showing great independence across the curriculum. It has been a real pleasure to talk to the children about our values, why we have them, and how they help us beyond primary school.

"Independence is about being resilient and not giving up. It is good to make mistakes and have another go." Ryan, Year 6

"Independence means working by yourself and not giving up even when the work can be challenging." Lilah, Year 6



Enriching our Curriculum

Ofsted recognised trips, visits and visitors are used to enrich and enhance children's learning at Preston. Every child will have at least one school trip this academic year. Connect Academy Trust have kindly donated £10.00 to each child to help with the funding of trips. At the start of the term, Unit 4 visited The Box Museum in Plymouth. The children became great Historians and enjoyed observing the historic galleries in the museum. They also took part in an Ancient Egyptian workshop where they were equipped with the task to become curators. It was a fantastic day and the children returned to school with lots of new knowledge to continue to answer their Long Enquiry question.

We have had many visitors into school to enhance our curriculum. In Foundation Stage, visitors have shared their professions as part of their Learning Enquiry: 'When I Grow Up.' They have linked learning to the school aim 'Ready for Work.' Reverend Ruth has visited Unit 3 to talk about the Gospels, and the Torbay Oral Hygiene Team came to speak to our Year 2 children about the importance of looking after their teeth.

Times Table Rock Star Competition



This half term saw our children take part in a Trust-wide Times Tables Rockstars Competition. Opportunities like this raise the status of maths fluency within our school community and it was lovely to see so many children engage so positively from Year 1 to Year 6. We celebrated the achievements of our children in Celebration Assembly. Tawny Owls performed particularly well scoring higher than some KS2 classes across the Trust and coming 27th out of 67 classes taking part. Well done Tawny Owls! Swifts were our highest placed class coming 13th out of 67 classes across the trust. Well done, Swifts! Ava from Year 3 in Swifts was Preston's top scorer and came 13th overall across all 8 schools. Well done, Ava!

We also took this opportunity to highlight the importance of balance with technology. Across our school, children learnt about how to maintain their health and well-being when engaging with technology through our Digital Literacy curriculum.

Well done, Preston, we are so proud of all of your hard work.

History Long Enquiry

We have had a great start to the new year with our History Learning Enquiries. Teachers have been supporting children to 'think like a Historian.' History is much more than just learning about history facts but asking the right questions. Children have developed their skills of giving reasons for events using evidence to justify their choices.

"It was great holding the artefacts and thinking about what they were made of. I knew that some of the artefacts were copper because they were oxidizing. Copper was used to make Bronze and I know that the Ancient Egyptians used bronze tools." Eryk, Year 6

Staff Professional Development

One of our school aims is 'Love to Learn.' All staff value the opportunities for personal growth and development, and recognise that this benefits our children. This half term, teachers and teaching assistants have taken part in some high-quality training to think spatially and explore what spatial reasoning means. Researchers have found evidence to suggest spatial thinking plays an important role in arithmetic, word problems, measurement, and geometry, and children's spatial reasoning ability is a strong predictor of their overall achievement in mathematics.

BETT

At Preston, we are all life-long learners and we are always looking over the horizon for ways to improve outcomes for our pupils. With our school aims in mind (Ready for Work, Be a Good Citizen, and Love to Learn) our EdTech and Computing Lead, Mr Mealy, recently visited the BETT Show in London with Computing Leads from across the Trust. Mr Mealy came away from the visit with many exciting and innovative ideas to explore at Preston to further develop our curriculum and school aims, and we are very excited to see what the future holds.

Voice 21 Oracy Project

We are invested in providing a high quality oracy education for our children at Preston. Mrs Bastin and Miss Farmer went to Bristol to attend some oracy training with Voice 21. We are committed to all our pupils accessing and benefiting from a high quality oracy education. We look forward to Mrs Bastin and Miss Farmer training staff in the tools and strategies we can use to support children's oracy. Oracy is a powerful tool for learning. By teaching children to become more effective speakers and listeners we empower them to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

Sports Festivals

To support our three school aims 'Love to Learn', 'Be a Good Citizen' and 'Ready for Work', this year we have invested in a sporting partnership with Paignton Academy. This means every class will participate in a Sports Festival this academic year. The festivals give children the opportunity to apply and use our school values in a different environment. It has been wonderful to see so many classes already enjoying these opportunities. Starlings and Little Owls have participated in athletics festivals, and Swifts and Kestrels have participated in handball and tchoukball festivals. The children developed their teamwork skills and resilience.



School Governors

For our school Governors to be able to carry out their role effectively, some have come in to school this half term to see what is going on with their own eyes. Our local community Governor, Ruth Beckett, attended the staff training session on spatial reasoning and commented, "I was impressed as a governor by the engagement of each member of staff with the CPD on offer. As a teacher myself I have rarely been in sessions where there is 100% buy-in to what is being demonstrated." One of our parent Governors, Mr Houlihan, joined us for writing moderation. He was very impressed by how skilled our teachers are in knowing the strengths and areas of development for every child's writing.



We would like to say a massive thank you to our PTA, FOPPS, for organising the Christmas Market and the Elfridges Christmas shop last term. It was wonderful to listen to the school choir sing alongside the Salvation Army brass band. It certainly got the school community in the festive mood.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to FOPPS for the very generous donation of £5000 to spend on new books for our library. All children from across the school have compiled wish lists of books they would like in the library. We have encouraged the children to take responsibility of the redevelopment of the library so they will respect the books and share recommendations with one another. We look forward to the arrival of the new books later this term.

Diary Dates

All dates are on the school calendar on our website:

Monday 12th-Friday 16th February—Half Term

Wednesday 21st February—Eco-Committee Uniform Sale, 3pm

Tuesday 27th February—Whole School Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm

Tuesday 27th February—Art trip to Cockington, Unit 4

Thursday 29th February—Whole School Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm

Thursday 29th February—Eagles Sports Festival

Friday 1st March—Choir performance at the Torbay Music Festival - 5pm, Palace Theatre

Wednesday 6th March—FOPPS Mothers Day Shop

Friday 8th March— World Book Day —Storyteller in school. Children can dress up as their favourite character from a book.

Tuesday 19th March— Unit 4 Rock Up and Read 2.45pm

Wednesday 20th March—Unit 3 Rock Up and Read 2.45pm

Wednesday 20th March— Unit 4 attending Paignton Academy Spring Musical 'Matilda JR'

Thursday 21st March— Unit 2 Rock Up and Read 2.45pm

Wednesday 27th March—Foundation Stage Theatre trip to Plymouth

Thursday 28th March— 50th Anniversary of the opening of the school celebration/last day of term.

Communication/messages:

Medical: Prescribed medicine can be administered, non-prescribed medicine (i.e. Calpol or Piriton) can only be accepted and administered to provide relief from headache or toothache etc, or to relieve minor allergy symptoms/hayfever. All medication should be brought to the office and an Administration of Medication form will need to be completed. Medicine should be in date, in its original packaging and clearly labelled with your child's name. We keep a small supply of Calpol in school for emergencies—if you know your child will require some medicine during the school day, please sign your child's medicine into the office. This can be brought in and collected each time, as needed.

Absences & communication with the school: Please note that we are no longer using the Teachers2Parents system. Please do not use any previous text numbers as we cannot access these messages. If you need to contact the school for any reason, please continue to use Arbor in-app messaging, send an email to admin@preston.torbay.sch.uk, call the absence line to report your child's absence 01803 607589, or telephone the school office 01803 607075. We ask parents to make contact with the school on each morning of absence, before 9am.

Contact details can always be found on our school website.