



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Friday 23rd February 2024

Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Collaboration



Communication



Creativity



Critical Thinking

Teamwork



Our school value for this half term is 'Teamwork'. We learn our school values through dinosaurs, and we would like to introduce you to 'Teamatops'.



I am Teamatops. I am very good at working with other people. I always listen to my friend's ideas and enjoy working out how to solve problems together. I am great at sharing my ideas and know that we can achieve more by working as a team.

Teamwork is about working with other people and listening to the ideas of others. We will teach the children to:

- Work well with others.
- Take on a role in a group such as a scribe or reporter.
- Contribute to a group's decisions.
- Support and resolve fall outs in a group.

We will also talk to the children about how teamwork is an essential skill for the future and how it relates very much to our school aim of 'Ready for Work.'

On Monday, we spent an afternoon engaged in a rotation of activities to explore the skills of teamwork:

- Activity 1 - We read the story of 'The Enormous Turnip'. Then we used drama to act out the play. We discussed how sometimes it is much easier to work as a team to get things done.
- Activity 2 - We talked about the different jobs in the future that will require teamwork skills. The children pretended to be builders and built a wall together using large bricks. We talked about how it is easier to work as a team and help each other – imagine how tiring and how long it would take to do it on your own!
- Activity 3 - We read the story 'That Fruit is mine!' by Anuska Allepuz. We had to hold hands in a circle and try to get a hula hoop around the circle without letting go of hands or breaking the circle. We had to work as a team and support each other to help the hoop move around the entire circle. We talked about the importance of communication in a team what happens if not everyone follows the rules in a team game.

Teamwork continued

- Activity 4 - We had to work in teams to get everyone from one side to the other by only standing on the yellow dots. We were not allowed to stand on the floor so we had to collaborate and pass the spare yellow dot to the other team members so that our group could move forward. We talked about how everyone has a role when working as a team. You need to communicate effectively to share ideas and take turns. There was then an extra challenge as the teams had to collect bean bags as they travelled.

The children enjoyed working together and we are very proud of them. We will continue to provide opportunities for the children to demonstrate teamwork. We always talk to the children about how they can use their school values in school and at home.

Please send us images on Seesaw of your child using teamwork at home.



Lunar New Year

This week we have been finding out about Lunar New Year. People in Hong Kong and other Chinese communities around the world celebrate Chinese New Year according to the lunar calendar. The New Lunar Year was celebrated on the 10th February and this is the Year of the Dragon.

We talked about the special traditions that take place at this time, such as gathering with family, decorating homes with lanterns, and the giving of red envelopes with money inside. The dragon dance is often performed during Chinese New Year as dragons are a symbol of China's culture, and they are believed to bring good luck to people. We also shared the Chinese zodiac story – here is a link if you would like to watch it with your child. [Zodiac Origin Story | The Story of the Great Race for Kids! | Lunar New Year | Chinese New Year \(youtube.com\)](#)

We recapped our learning from Autumn term when we talked about celebrations. We compared the Lunar New Year to the other celebrations we had explored in the past (Bonfire Night, Diwali, Christmas) and talked about the similarities and differences. The children recognised that many celebrations are enjoyed with family and friends. Homes are decorated, special food is shared, and sometimes people enjoy fireworks. We will continue our learning on Lunar New Year next week. We hope to make and taste our own simple Chinese noodles. The ingredients will be fresh egg noodles, onions, and soy sauce. We will also be tasting prawn crackers and vegetable spring rolls. Please make sure your child's medical information is up to date on Arbor. If you have any queries, please let us know. We will also be performing our own dragon dance.



Shrove Tuesday

As part of our Religious Education curriculum, on Tuesday we celebrated Shrove Tuesday. We talked about the meaning of Shrove Tuesday to Christians and how Shrove Tuesday is the start of Lent. We talked about how some people give up things, e.g. chocolate, during this time.

The children whisked the ingredients to make the batter and then watched while Mrs Bastin cooked the pancakes. The children used the language crack, mix, whisk, batter, liquid, flip, measuring jug, half, quarter, grams, and millilitres. We talked about how the batter is a liquid and then it turns to a solid when it is cooked. Their favourite part was eating the pancakes. They were very yummy!



Maths – 3D Shapes

Last week the children explored 2D shapes and this week they extended their learning to 3D shapes. We explored cubes, cuboids, cylinders, spheres, pyramids, and cones. We talked about the similarities and differences, and if they had curved or flat surfaces. The children experimented with the 3D shapes by trying to make towers with the 3D shapes and seeing which ones would roll down a slope. They worked in teams and had to explain why some shapes did not stack to make a tower, i.e. spheres and pyramids, and why other shapes did not roll down a ramp, i.e. cubes and cuboids. The children found it tricky to remember the names of the 3D shapes but had lots of fun experimenting. We will continue looking in our learning environment to find and name the 3D shapes to help us.

Home learning – please could you help your children search around the home to name some 3D shapes. Please take some pictures and send them to us on Seesaw. They could also bring an example to school to show their friends (i.e. a cuboid cereal box). Thank you for your continued support.



Lego Discovery



In Lego Discovery this week the children were challenged to design and create vehicles and tools you might find on a construction site. They had to think about what a builder might need and how they work as a team. The children created wonderful dumper trucks, cranes, and lorries. We are always so impressed with their creativity.

Six Brick Activities at Home

It has been wonderful to see so many families enjoying the six brick activities at home. Thank you for sending your images on Seesaw, the children have enjoyed sharing them. Here are some examples of the great learning taking place at home.





Rock Up and Read



On **Monday 18th March at 2.45pm** we would like to invite you to a 'Rock Up and Read' session. This will be an opportunity for you to come into the classroom to share the love of reading with your child. There will be lots of books available for you to read with your child. The children really enjoy reading for pleasure and they would be delighted to share the experience with you as well.

The adult collecting your child that day will be able to come into the classroom at 2.45pm (via the playground) to share some stories and then you will be able to take the children home at 3.15pm.

If you are unable to attend the session, please do not worry. Your child will still be able to enjoy reading for pleasure with their friends and the teachers in the class.

If you have any queries, please come and ask the class teacher.



Using Tools

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing the children to using basic carpentry tools. There was great excitement when the children realized they were using 'real' tools and not pretend play tools! We will talk about the purpose and use of the tool, risks, and safety, before using them. We started this week by introducing the children to hammers and nails. The children all worked responsibly and safely. Apologies if this sparks a keen interest at home to help with DIY around the house!



Parent Meetings

You can now book a parent meeting via Arbor for either Tuesday 27th February or Thursday 29th February. We cannot believe we are already halfway through the academic year. These meetings are a great way to celebrate your child's wonderful achievements and discuss your child's learning journey going forward. If you have any queries, please come and speak to the class teacher.

Home Learning

- Enjoy listening to this week's story on Seesaw. 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' read by Mrs Clague.
- Check your child's book bag or on Seesaw for phonics activities and reading.
- Enjoy the Lego Six Bricks activity on Seesaw.
- Hunt for 3D shapes around the house and send photos on Seesaw.
- Send in a family picture by Monday 4th March ready for the children to use in class. This can be sent via e-mail to foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk or sent via Seesaw.

Diary dates

- **Tuesday 27th & Thursday 29th February** - Parent meetings
- **Wednesday 6th March** - Mother's Day shop by FOPPS
- **Friday 8th March** – World Book Day.
- **Friday 15th March** – Comic Relief (Red Nose Day) On the day, we would like the children to come to school with a red nose, if they wish, and wearing their usual school uniform. You can make a voluntary donation to our school JustGiving page for Comic Relief, which will allow us to show the children how much they raised together.

[Preston Primary School is fundraising for Comic Relief \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/prestonprimary)

- **Monday 18th March** – Rock up and Read session at 2.45pm
- **Wednesday 27th March** – Theatre Trip

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