



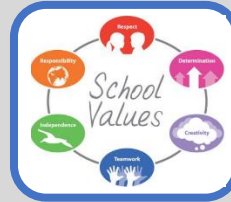
Preston Primary
Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter
Friday 17th May 2024



Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Collaboration



Communication



Creativity



Critical Thinking

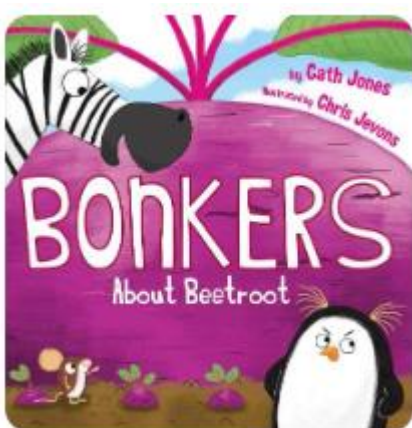
Literacy – ‘Bonkers about Beetroot’

We always like to include quality texts to support our learning. This week we started exploring a new book called ‘Bonkers about Beetroot’ by Cath Jones.

The children looked at the front cover to make predictions about the story. They collaborated to record their ideas on the iPads. They demonstrated great teamwork when using the iPad, taking turns to record their ideas.

The children enjoyed describing the two main characters, Zebra and Penguin. They decided that Zebra looked happy, and Penguin looked mad. We shared ‘higher level’ words for ‘happy’ such as delighted, overjoyed, and excited, and instead of ‘mad’ we used the vocabulary glum, cross, furious, and scowling.

After making predictions, we read the funny story and we stopped at different points to discuss our predictions and explain new vocabulary, we call this ‘book talk’. Book talk is essential to help children become engaged in the story and gain deeper comprehension. It gives children the confidence to offer ideas about the story and raise questions. We are looking forward to exploring the book further next week.





Learning Experience – Let's investigate plants and food

This week Puffins and Penguins were answering the questions:

What do plants need to grow? Why do we need plants? Develop a scientific understanding of plant-life and growing.

Which foods can we grow? Develop an understanding of growth and a balanced diet.

The children have been taking great care of their sunflower seeds and they are starting to sprout. Over the past couple of weeks, Puffins and Penguins have been busy planting. We talked about all the different foods we could grow and how you cannot grow some foods like a packet of crisps! We categorised different foods and then mapped out if they grow underground, on top of the ground, in a bush or tree.

We planted some potatoes, courgettes, peas and herbs. As part of our discussions we identified that we actually eat different parts of plants. For example, a carrot is a root, a pea is a seed, and broccoli is a flower. The children were fascinated by this.

One child recommended a book she has at home that explores where food comes from. 'How did that get in my lunchbox?' By Chris Butterworth. You might like to see if you can borrow a copy of this book from the local library.



In the Woodland Camp this week we visited the environmental area and explored the poly tunnel. The children soon set to work weeding the raised beds. It was hard work, but they were very determined and even found some fascinating bugs along the way.



Rock up and Read

Thank you for supporting our 'Rock up and Read' session this week. The sun was shining so we were able to use outside spaces as well. It was wonderful to see so many families sharing books together. It is always a pleasure inviting families into school to share a love of reading.

Half Term Library Challenge

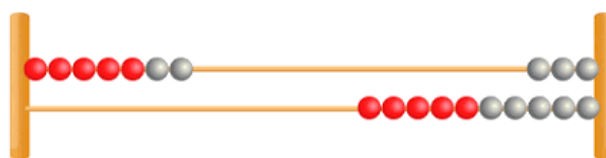
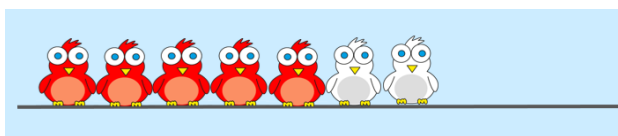
During half term we would like to encourage all children to visit the local library to loan five new books they have not read before. Send us a photo of the books on Seesaw and tell us (using the voice recording button) which one was your favourite and why. There are so many wonderful books to explore in the local libraries and it is free to join. [Join the library - torbay \(torbaylibraries.org.uk\)](http://torbaylibraries.org.uk)



Maths

This week we have been subitising beads on a 'rekenrek'. A rekenrek is a counting frame, similar to an abacus. It has ten beads on each row, five white and five red. It allows the children to work more efficiently because, unlike an abacus which has beads that are all the same colour on the row, the red and white beads on the rekenrek allow them to quickly 'see' the two five parts, for example to make 7 by knowing they need 5 red beads plus 2 white beads.

This will allow the children to continue to develop their subitising skills, explore the structure of small numbers, develop their number sense, and will lead on to adding and subtracting.



Poetry and Singing Performance – Tuesday 21st May 2.40pm – 3pm

The children are busy practising their poems and songs for a special performance to parents and families. Please enter school via the main office. We look forward to welcoming you.

Billy and the Dragon by Nadia Shireen

This week we began exploring vocabulary from the book. Here are some of the words you might like to use at home with your child.

Billy and the Dragon

- Word 1: adorable
- Word 2: mysterious
- Word 3: grabbed
- Word 4: massive
- Word 5: rummaged (rummage, rummaging)
- Word 6: fearsome
- Word 7: fortunate (fortunately)
- Word 8: treacherous



Swimming

Here are the swimming dates for Puffins and Penguins:

Tuesday 11th June

Friday 14th June

Friday 21st June

Friday 28th June

Friday 5th July

Friday 12th July

Please make sure your child has their swimming kit on each of these days. You will soon receive an e-mail with more details from the school office.

Learning to swim is an important life skill, especially as we live so close to the sea as we want to keep our children 'water safe'. We commit thousands of pounds every year to maintaining and heating the pool. Thank you to everyone who has made their £12 donation, this can be paid via your Arbor app.



Home Learning

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw 'Fix it Duck' read by Miss Dyer.
- Check your child's book bag and Seesaw for phonics and Read Write Inc activities and reading to complete at home.
- Complete the activity on Seesaw – Where does it grow?

Important Dates

- **Tuesday 21st May** – Singing and Poetry Performance to Parents 2.40pm – 3pm
- **Monday 27th May** – Half Term
- **Tuesday 4th June** – Children return to school
- **Thursday 6th June** – Non-Uniform day and Disco (in the school day)
- **Thursday 13th June** – FOPPS Father's Day Shop
- **Friday 5th July** – FOPPS Summer Fair
- **Monday 8th July** – Sports Day (reserve date Tuesday 9th July)
- **NEW DATE ADDED - Wednesday 10th July** – Foundation celebration show 2.30pm
- **Wednesday 10th July** – Annual reports sent to parents
- **Thursday 11th July** – Foundation trip to Paignton Academy sports festival
- **Tuesday 16th July & Wednesday 17th July** – Transition days in new classes
- **Friday 19th July** – Last Day of Term

From Mrs Bastin and the Foundation Stage Team