

Festive Fun

It has been a very busy week. It is definitely looking a lot like Christmas!

The children have been learning about Advent, how it is a time for Christians to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. They learnt the word 'Advent' comes from a very old word 'Adventus' which means the arrival of something or someone important. We talked about the advent wreath and the meaning of the candles. The children drew pictures from the nativity and made an enormous traditional advent calendar. We will be opening a door each day.

The children have enjoyed recording scenes for the nativity, we have had lots of fun. When we finish filming, we will hold a movie premiere for the children. As a treat for all their hard work we would like to give the children popcorn and snacks to enjoy whilst enjoying watching. Please ensure your child's medical records are up to date. We will then e-mail you a link to watch the nativity with your families at home.

On the 1st December, two elves arrived in the classroom. The elves, who have been named Elfie Bob and Oscar McFluffytoes, have been found in different places in the classroom and have been leaving challenges for the children.



Home Learning

- Check your book bag or Seesaw for this week's phonic activity.
- Enjoy listening to the story on Seesaw.
- Read our festive book recommendations – do you have any of these? Which one would you like to read? Tell us on Seesaw.
- Talk about Advent with your grown up. Can you share one thing you learnt?
- Can you follow the instructions on the Seesaw activity to build a Christmas tree?

'Winnie's Amazing Pumpkin' by Valerie Thomas

recommended by Errin



I like this book because it is funny and I like sharing the story with my brother and my cat. In the story Winnie love pumpkins and she grows them in the garden and tries to use a spell. Winnie says Abracadabra and there was a big snail, a big cabbage and a big pumpkin.

'Terrific Trains' by Tony Mitton

recommended by Caspian



This book is about trains and I like to pretend me and my family are the characters in the book. It tells me about the parts of the train so I can learn about it; train tracks, horn, signal, coaches. I like the book because I really like different parts of the book. The trains arrive late and have to stop at the signals.

'Animalphabet' by Julia Donaldson

recommended by Alice



It is my favourite because I love animals and it has lots of flaps. The flamingo is my favourite animal in the book. The book compares lots of animals and asks lots of questions. I like reading this book to my family.

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum. We would like to share some of our favourite Christmas books with you. We have put together our recommendations at the end of the newsletter. We hope they inspire you to enjoy lots of stories.

Messages

- Please remember that you can also view this newsletter on the school website where you can also see any photographs that we include.
- Please continue to contact the school office by email admin@preston.torbay.sch.uk or phone 01803 607075 with any questions or queries.
- In the event of your child being poorly, please call our absence line is 01803 607589 where you can leave a voice message.
- There is also lots of useful information, as well as event dates and term dates, on our school website <https://www.preston.torbay.sch.uk/>

Important Dates

- Christmas lunch – Wednesday 15th December. Please book in advance on the Aspens Select webpage.
- Last day of term – Friday 17th December. Children can opt to wear a festive jumper on this day. Children will need to wear school uniform with their festive jumper.

From Mrs Bastin, Mrs Clague and the Foundation Stage Team

Book Recommendations – A Christmas Special

We love reading books and would like to share some of our favourite Christmas books with you. We hope you enjoy some of our recommendations.



Mrs Bastin

I would like to recommend the book **'Dear Santasaur' written by Chae Strathie and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne**. I love this book because I love dinosaurs! This story is about a little boy called Max who has a T-Rex dinosaur friend at the museum, and they write letters and e-mails to each other. Max would like to know if Santa delivers presents to dinosaurs and his T-Rex friend wishes he could ride in Santa's sleigh. I like the character Max because he has a wonderful imagination, I also like reading all the letters that they write to one another. One day Max gets a special letter inviting him to a Roar-Some party!



Mrs Clague

'The Night Before Christmas' by Clement C. Moore

It is a family tradition in our house that I read this poem every Christmas Eve to my children. It is about someone who gets woken up by the clattering noise of the sleigh and so they are able to spy on Father Christmas as he delivers the presents to them. My favourite bit is when Santa laughs and the author says his belly shook 'like a bowl full of jelly'. It gets us excited about Santa's visit that night and when we go to bed we listen carefully for the sleigh bells and reindeer hooves.



Miss Dyer

The Christmas book I'm recommending is **'Socks for Santa' written by Adam & Charlotte Gillian and illustrated by Lee Wildish**. This story is about a boy called George and his Christmas Eve plan to take gifts to Santa. George sets off on a journey to the North Pole. I love this book because it's a rhyming story which are my favourite type of story. My favourite characters are the animals of the North Pole, Polar bears, Reindeers and Puffins.

I also like the main character George as he's so kind and thoughtful going to give gifts to Santa to say Thank you for all the gifts Santa has given him. The illustrations of what the puffins get up to on each page make me laugh.

Will George reach Santa with all his gifts?



Mrs Wenman

Room for a Little one by Martin Waddell. A beautiful story of the birth of Jesus as told through the eyes of a kind Ox. There's always room for a little one says kind Ox, and that very night under the star lit sky a little one was born. I have brought my story into school to share with you all.

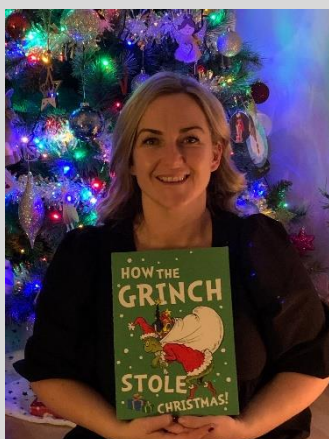


Miss Rowe

I would like to recommend the book **"Santa is Coming to Devon"** written by **Steve Smallman** and illustrated by **Robert Dunn**.

This is my favourite Christmas book because it tells you all about Santa's journey and how he gets to our homes in Devon.

In the story, it tells you what happens on his journey and how he even got stuck on the top of Exeter Cathedral after a snow storm. I wonder if you could spot your house as he flies over Torbay. I love to see all the beautiful illustrations in this book because they help me visualise Santa's journey on Christmas Eve.



Mrs Coombe

I would like to recommend the book **'How the Grinch stole Christmas'** written by **Dr. Suess**.

I love to read this book every Christmas Eve.

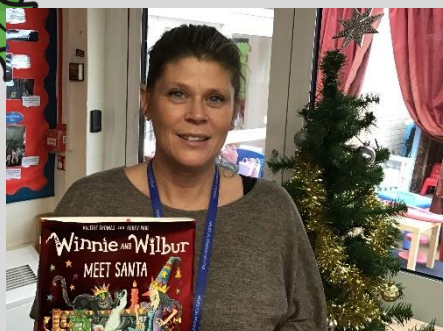
It is about a Grinch who hates Christmas so much, he tries to steal it!!! However, he soon learns what Christmas is all about! It has the loveliest ending!



Miss Lewis

'The Snowman' by **Raymond Briggs**

This is a classic traditional Christmas story which I love. It's about a young boy who builds a snowman in his back garden and by magic he comes to life. It's full of love and imagination and is beautifully illustrated.



Mrs Agboma

'Winnie and Wilbur meet Santa' by **Valerie Thomas** and **Korky Paul**.

We all love books in our house and always read more stories around Christmas time. This story is particularly magical because the children in the book actually get to meet Santa! The illustrations are detailed and colourful and I love the pop up page at the end, it makes the book extra special.