



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Friday 26th September 2025



Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Curriculum Update

Woodland Camp

The children had lots of fun exploring the Woodland Camp again this week. We sat on the seating around the 'fire circle' and reminded ourselves of the safety rules. Throughout the year we will be cooking in the camp, and we will light a fire, so we are teaching the children to always walk around the fire circle seating and never walk across it so that we can stay safe at all times.

We had a wonderful time exploring and playing in the woods with our new friends! The children played lots of different games – they made dens, climbed trees, cooked in the mud kitchen, and used their imagination!



PE

This week the children enjoyed Mythical Creatures in PE. They enjoyed using beanbags and pretending to be dragons, fairies, and unicorns! They were practising jumping, throwing, catching, and passing hand to hand. The key objectives were:

Social: To be aware of others when working in a space.

Emotional: To be confident to try new challenges and keep trying if I find them difficult.

Thinking: To think about my learning and what I found challenging.

The children showed great responsibility for their learning. During a PE session the children are developing their relationships with one another, working creatively, following instructions, practising their listening and attention skills, exploring mathematical concepts, and keeping active. It is important to support the well-being of children, and we have identified that a great way to do this is through PE sessions.



Special Boxes

It has been wonderful to listen to many children sharing their special boxes in class. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about their hobbies and interests, a great way for children to demonstrate how special and unique they are. We have been impressed by their confidence and enthusiasm to talk in front of new friends. It is a special moment when children find commonalities and realise they share interests; a great way of bringing everyone together.



Library

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum, and we aim to create a 'reading for pleasure' culture.

The children have enjoyed visiting our school library. They enjoyed looking at the different books and we started talking about the difference between fiction and non-fiction.

Visiting the library is a chance for the children to independently choose a book to share at home with you. We are not expecting the children to read these books themselves, they are to share with a grown up for pleasure.

We plan to visit the library **every Monday** so please ensure they bring their book in their book bag every Monday. If for some reason we are unable to visit on a Monday, we will let you know at the earliest convenience.

Please encourage your child to look after their library book. Can we ask that water bottles are not carried in children's book bags as sometimes they leak. Thank you.



Child Led Tour of the classrooms

Puffins and Penguins would like to invite you into the classroom on **Tuesday 7th October at 2.50pm** to give you a tour of their learning environment. The aim of this session is for the children to talk to you about their new school and show you the different areas of the classroom that they have explored. The children will lead the tours and use a tour guide sheet to help them. We will open the playground gate at 2.50pm for you to enter the classrooms. We look forward to welcoming you all.



In addition to this we know that a few new parents have not previously toured the rest of the school. Mrs Bastin would be happy to do a tour at 3.15pm the same day for anyone who has not visited before.

Please speak to Mrs Bastin if you are interested.

Phonics – Read Write Inc



This week we learnt the sounds 'k', 'u', 'g', 'b' and 'f'. There is a short video on Seesaw for children to watch and join in. The video helps children to recall sounds speedily. This will help children to move to the next stage of reading – blending sounds to read words.

If your child is struggling with particular sounds, we have assigned further video links on Seesaw for them to practice. The practice videos are a little longer (8 minutes). We know some people are struggling to open the links. We recommend you try using different devices or paste the link into a web browser. If problems persist, please come and talk to a class teacher.

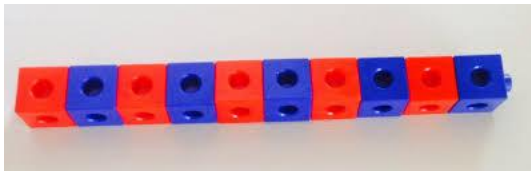
Maggie Muncher has been busy in the classroom this week. She has been helping the children to oral blend (hearing sounds and blending them together to say the word). We have assigned another video from Maggie on Seesaw. Have fun!

Phonic Information Session – Thursday 2nd October at 2.30pm

A reminder that on **Thursday 2nd October at 2.30pm** we will be holding a phonic information session in the school hall for all parents and carers. We will explain how your child learns to read in school and how you can help at home. We will talk about the importance of reading and phonics and how your child will progress through the Read Write Inc programme. We hope you can all join us. The session will finish by 3.15pm so you can collect your child as normal. Please use this link to confirm your attendance by Monday 29th September. <https://forms.office.com/e/2uyweT6utH> If you have any questions, please ask a class teacher.

Maths

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring the wonderful world of repeating patterns. The children began by exploring simple AB patterns - for example red, blue, red, blue - using a variety of materials such as cubes, beads, and counters.



Once they were confident, we moved on to more complex ABC patterns (blue, red, yellow, blue, red, yellow), adding an extra challenge and encouraging careful observation and prediction.



It is tricky for children to spot the unit of repeat and continue a pattern. We have been impressed with their determination and resilience to learn how to spot and create repeated patterns. Well done everyone. We have set a pattern challenge on Seesaw this week. You might like to help your child make a simple repeating pattern at home and send us a picture on Seesaw. This could be made with anything; leaf, stick, leaf, stick or cup, fork, cup, fork.



Learning Ladder

We recently introduced the 'Learning Ladder' to the children. In Foundation Stage, we use this as a visual aid to promote and reward children who have been challenging their learning. Children might get 1 'jump' up the ladder for applying what they have been taught in lessons and demonstrating their knowledge, for example, we might have taught them how to use a ruler to measure in a Maths lesson, and then during 'Choosing Learning Time' we see them using the ruler to measure in the builder's construction area. They will also receive a jump for things like being a good role model, showing resilience when faced with challenges or great teamwork.



When they reach the top of the ladder, they can have a 'dip in the box', where they get to choose a small prize to keep.

Room on the Broom

The children have enjoyed reading the story 'Room on the Broom' by author Julia Donaldson. We have read the story many times so the children are familiar with the text and can join in with the familiar phrases. They have been using some of the vocabulary from the book and enjoyed taking part in some drama. We introduced four words:

Searched – 'I searched for my other shoe, but I could not find it'.

Grinned – 'Freddie grinned when he saw his pudding at lunchtime'.

Magnificent – 'Your writing is magnificent'.

Politely – 'Harry politely held the door open for Mrs Oliver'.

Please try and use these words at home in different contexts with the children.



Harvest Donations

As Harvest season approaches, we are grateful to welcome Reverend Nathan to school on Monday 29th September. **We invite children to bring in a small donation of food on the morning of Monday 29th September and hand it to their class teacher.**

Our collection will benefit Feed a Child Torbay, a charity that is close to our hearts as they help some of our children and families directly. Through our links to local charities, our pupils develop a sense of the wider world around them, helping them to develop into good citizens of the future, which is one of our School Aims.

Feed a Child Torbay accept non-perishable donations such as tinned meats or fish, tinned soups, pasta, rice, tinned vegetables or fruits, and jars of sauces. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher. For a full list of food that can be accepted and more information about this charity, please visit: [Feed A Child Torbay - No child deserves to go hungry](#)

Transition Questionnaire – please complete on Seesaw

We have created a short online transition questionnaire to collect your views regarding transition to Preston Primary. We would really appreciate a few minutes of your time to respond to the questionnaire. We have assigned a link to the questionnaire on Seesaw.

Thank you in advance for your support.

If you know of a child who is due to start school in September 2026, please let their family know about our upcoming tour dates:

Tuesday 30th September at 9.30am (FULL)

Thursday 9th October at 9.30am (FULL) and 3.30pm

Wednesday 15th October at 9.30am

Tuesday 21st October at 9.30am

Wednesday 5th November at 9.30am and 3.30pm

Wednesday 12th November at 9.30am

Tuesday 18th November at 9.30am

Home Learning for children and parents

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw read by Mrs Blatchford
- Watch and join in with Maggie Muncher oral blending activity on Seesaw.
- Respond to the attendance link for the phonic information session
<https://forms.office.com/e/2uyweT6utH>
- Create a box of special items to share with your friends (if you haven't already).
- Watch and join in with the review sounds video
- Watch additional sound videos for sounds children are not confident with.
- Try the pattern activity on Seesaw or send us a picture of a repeating pattern you have created at home.
- Complete the transition questionnaire on Seesaw.

Important Dates for your Diary

Thursday 2nd October 2.30pm – Parent Phonic Information Session in the school hall. Enter via the main office.

Tuesday 7th October 2.50pm – Child Led Tour in Foundation. This is an opportunity for your child to give you a tour of their classroom and talk to you about their learning environment. Enter via the playground.

Monday 13th October & Tuesday 14th October – Puffins and Penguins Parent Meetings 3.30pm – 6pm. More information to follow closer to the time.

Thursday 23rd October – Non uniform day and school disco (during the school day). More details to follow.

Friday 24th October – Non-Pupil Day

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October – Half Term

Monday 3rd November – Children return to school

Kind Regards Mrs Bastin, Mrs Blatchford and the Foundation Stage Team

Please share this poster with anyone that has a child starting school in September 2026.

Thank you.

School Tours



Do you have a child due to start school in September 2026?

We invite you to visit our school.
We have tours on the following dates:



Tuesday 30th September at 9.30am **FULL**

Thursday 9th October at 9.30am and 3.30pm

Wednesday 15th October at 9.30am

Tuesday 21st October at 9.30am

Wednesday 5th November at 9.30am and 3.30pm

Tuesday 18th November at 9.30am

Wednesday 26th November at 9.30am and 3.30pm

Contact the school office to book a place
01803 607075 or admin@preston.torbay.sch.uk