



Half-Termly Newsletter

Issue 1: October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of our first half term! The children have settled back into school routines brilliantly and have shown great enthusiasm for their learning. Whether it has been exploring new topics in the classroom, enjoying playtimes with friends, or taking part in after school activity clubs, the children have approached everything with energy and positivity.

I am very proud of how the children have supported each other, shown kindness, mutual respect, and embraced the challenges of a new school year. A big thank you also goes to our staff, who work so hard to create a happy, calm, and nurturing environment for every child.

Our school culture values the relationships we have with you as parents and carers. We hope you have found the parent workshops this half term for Year 1 transition, English, and Phonics useful so you can support your child's learning at home.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and fun half term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back ready for the next exciting half term of learning and activities on Monday 3rd November.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Oliver

Our Three School Aims

Our school ethos is underpinned by our three School Aims, and we recognise how these impact children's learning and development.

Love to
Learn

We aim to instil a love of learning for all our pupils, and that learning never stops for adults and children. We are all lifelong learners.

Be a
Good
Citizen

We aim to guide our children to understand what it means to be a positive citizen in society.

Ready
for
Work

We aim to prepare children for a world of work that could be very different to today. Jobs that might not exist yet.

Our School Values

The long-term legacy of Preston Primary will be the personal values that our pupils take to secondary school and beyond. Passing exams is important in life but needs to be complimented by a set of personal values that enable one to flourish in the workplace, in the community, and in the family. At Preston, we have six values, one for each half term within the year. This half term we have been focusing on the value of **Respect** which the children have shown in abundance. Respect links well with being in a new class and ascertaining class rules.



Celebrating Our Learning

Ready
for
Work

Love to
Learn

Enriching Our Curriculum

Years 3 and 5 – Some of our children took part in their Level 1 and 2 Bikeability course. This training equips are children with vital life skills – not only learning to ride a bike safely, but also gaining independence, responding to risk, and growing in confidence – all key characteristics of Being a Good Citizen.

Harvest – Reverend Nathan Kiyaga led a special harvest assembly. The children reflected on the importance of caring for others and the power of sharing, shown through generous food donations for Feed a Child Torbay.

Sports festival – This half term Hawks and Swifts classes have participated in a Tag Rugby Sports Festival at Paignton Rugby Club. The children embraced each activity with great passion for learning capturing our School Aim, Love to Learn.

Year 2 children were lucky to have the Dental Outreach team from Peninsula Health visit. The workshop gave the children skills and knowledge they need to continue looking after their oral health at home.

Foundation Stage children supported our School Aims, Love to Learn and Ready for Work, by becoming tour guides! Parents and carers came into the classrooms, and the children gave them a personalised tour of the learning environment.



Be a
Good
Citizen



Our Enquiry Subjects

Ready
for
Work

Love to
Learn

Design and Technology

We have been amazed by the creativity, teamwork, and resilience the children have shown in their DT enquiries this term. Each Unit has brought our School Aims – *Love to Learn*, *Ready for Work*, and *Be a Good Citizen* – to life. Through hands-on projects, children have developed practical skills, worked with purpose, and thought carefully about their audience and impact.

Unit 2 demonstrated our School Aim of *Love to Learn* by exploring mechanisms and storytelling through moving pictures. Their use of sliders and levers showed how imaginative thinking and technical skills can come together to engage an audience.

Unit 3 embodied our School Aim of *Ready for Work* as children designed, tested, and refined toy cars for a car race. They worked as teams, solved problems, and showed resilience – just like real Engineers!

Unit 4 showed our School Aim of *Be a Good Citizen* by making soup with seasonal and ethically sourced ingredients. They learned about sustainability, food choices, and teamwork, showing how thoughtful design can have a positive impact on our environment.

We are incredibly proud of the children's achievements and the way they have embraced each challenge with enthusiasm and purpose. Their DT work is a brilliant example of how learning can be creative, collaborative, and connected to the wider world.



Geography

Love to
Learn

This half term, our Geography learning has been full of curiosity and discovery across the year groups.

Unit 2 have been exploring the question “*Why are some countries hot and others cold?*”, learning about the Earth's position and how geography affects temperature.

Unit 3 have been investigating “*What are the human and physical features of Europe?*” using maps to identify countries, landmarks, and comparing different regions.

Unit 4 have been answering “*What are natural disasters?*”, gaining an understanding of events like earthquakes, floods, and volcanoes, and how they impact people and places.

Throughout these enquiries, children have been developing key geographical skills such as using maps, identifying similarities and differences, and asking thoughtful questions. They've shown a real love of learning and curiosity about the world around them and will be sharing their knowledge through presentations that showcase their understanding and enthusiasm.



Our Enquiry Subjects

Ready
for
Work

Love to
Learn

Computing

Over this half term, our children have taken part in a wide range of engaging learning experiences in Computing, helping them to deepen their understanding of how technology works and how it supports our everyday lives. It has been wonderful to see them confidently applying the skills that help them to be **Ready for Work** – from exploring how devices function to understanding how to use technology effectively and responsibly. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have truly shone through! So, what have our children been up to?

Unit 2 – What technology is there around us?

Pupils explored the technology they encounter in everyday life – from household devices to classroom tools. They also learned how to use technology safely and responsibly, developing an awareness of digital wellbeing and online safety.

Unit 3 – How are computers connected?

This enquiry focused on how different devices communicate with each other. Children investigated networks and connectivity, culminating in a fascinating tour of our school's network infrastructure. They discovered how devices such as printers, iPads, and computers are all part of a connected system.

Unit 4 – How are websites made?

Learners took their first steps into webpage creation, exploring the elements that make up a website. They considered important aspects such as copyright, fair use, and good design principles—gaining a deeper appreciation for how content is created and shared online.

Throughout these enquiries, our pupils have shown fantastic curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. It has been wonderful to see them apply our school anchor, **Love to Learn**, with such enthusiasm and confidence. Their engagement in Computing this half term has been a joy to witness, and we are proud of the progress they are making.



Parent Sessions

We have started the year with several parent workshops including Teacher Information Meetings, Foundation Stage Phonics, Transition to Year 1, and KS1 and KS2 English workshops. These sessions establish a positive connection between home and school as they equip parents with tools to support learning. Building strong home-school partnerships is important to all the staff at Preston. Thank you to everyone who attended the sessions and for completing the parent surveys. Your feedback is appreciated.

Foundation Stage Transition

- ❖ 100% felt supported in the lead up to child starting Preston.
- ❖ 100% felt communication was effective.
- ❖ 100% felt their child found the welcome video, starting big schoolbook and Seesaw activities helpful in the transition.

KS1 Transition Meeting

- ❖ 100% of parents felt the meeting clarified how their child is supported as they move from EYFS to Year 1.

KS1 and KS2 English Meetings

- ❖ 100% of parents found the meetings informative and helpful.
- ❖ 100% of parents feel more confident now with how to help their child at home.

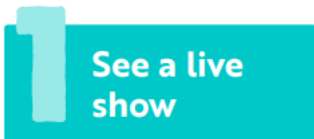
30 Ways to Connect

We are excited to share with you our involvement in the “30 Ways to Connect” initiative – a special scheme developed by Connect Academy Trust to enrich your child’s primary school journey. The experiences are carefully chosen to support children’s personal development and reflect the shared values of the Trust: **empowering, principled, trailblazing, and nurturing**.

This initiative offers children the opportunity to experience **30 memorable and meaningful activities** during their time at Preston. These experiences are designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and foster a deep connection with the world around them. While some activities may be repeated, the aim is for every child to take part in all 30 at least once between Foundation and Year 6.

Here are a few examples of what we offer and when your child will enjoy these experiences:

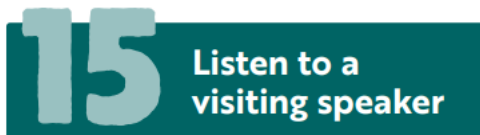
- See a live show – in all year groups. Foundation visit the theatre and M&M productions perform for children in Year 1 to 6.



- Have a Sleepover – At the end of Year 2 children are given the opportunity to sleep in school.



- Listen to a visiting speaker – in every year group.



We believe that learning goes far beyond the classroom, and through “30 Ways to Connect,” we aim to create lasting memories and meaningful learning opportunities that will stay with your child for years to come. Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to sharing these adventures with your children!



Our Fantastic FOPPS

A huge thank you to FOPPS (Friends of Preston Primary School) for generously funding the amazing live performance of The Wizard of Oz. The actors brought the story to life, and sparked curiosity and enthusiasm for the world of live theatre. This is an example of a ‘30 Ways to Connect’ experience.

Another huge thank you to FOPPS for organising the school discos on Thursday 23rd October. This is another example of a ‘30 Ways to Connect’ experience.



Our School Priorities for 2025-26

We're pleased to share our School Improvement Plan with you. This plan outlines the key goals and strategies we're focusing on this year to help every child succeed.



Preston Primary School School Improvement Plan 2025-26



Quality of Education

Maintain consistent, high-quality teaching and learning practices and pedagogy ensuring all pupils make sustained and substantial progress.

- Strengthen pupils' ability to retrieve and apply prior knowledge across the curriculum to enhance long-term learning.
- Strengthen the assessment of pupils' disciplinary and substantive knowledge in foundation subjects.
- Improve the consistency and effectiveness of marking and feedback to ensure all pupils clearly understand their strengths and next steps.
- Improve pupil outcomes in mathematics by embedding effective journaling practices.



Leadership

To consistently provide strong leadership across all levels of the school; empowering staff, pupils and the wider school community.

- Strengthen subject leaders' capacity to effectively monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, and assessment.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Local Governing Body to ensure they provide effective challenge and support.
- Develop pupils' roles and responsibilities across the school so children can influence school life and develop their own leadership skills.



Behaviour and Culture

Leaders, with all staff, continue to build a culture of shared responsibility with highly positive, trusting connections with pupils.

- Review our behaviour policy and practice so it aligns with our school ethos.
- Continue to collaborate with our families to improve pupils' attendance and support their overall well-being.
- Improve the attendance and punctuality of FSM pupils and those who are persistently absent.
- Share and celebrate Connect Academy Trust's '30 Ways to Connect.'



Writing

To improve the attainment of writing across the school.

- Develop children's early foundational writing skills.
- Develop children's abilities to communicate and listen effectively through spoken language.
- Improve pupils' phonetic knowledge and spelling accuracy to enable more confident and fluent writers.
- Strengthen our modelling of writing by thinking aloud each small step. In order to help our pupils improve their skills in composition, grammar, punctuation, and transcription so that they develop into confident and independent writers.



Pupil Achievements



Celebrating children's personal successes and achievements is important to us at Preston as we know it helps build character, such as building self-esteem and confidence. Well done to these children for your wonderful achievements. We have some very talented pupils!

Please email into admin@preston.torbay.sch.uk with a photo and information, if you are happy to share your child's achievements outside school, and it may feature in our half termly newsletters.

Alfred, Year 6

Alfred had an excellent season with the Exeter Otters Wheelchair Basketball team for 24/25. He was named junior player of the season, and then over the summer holidays played with them in the U14 wheelchair basketball nationals at Worcester Arena. He scored lots of baskets over an amazing weekend, helping the team come away with the bronze medal. Wow Alfred, what an amazing achievement!



Stephanie, Year 3



Stephanie did a recent ballet exam and was awarded a distinction – with 75 out of 100 marks. Also, a Modern exam distinction – with 92 out of 100 marks! Well done, Stephanie. We are super proud of you!

Bez, Billy, Jack, Year 3

Jack, Bez, and Billy recently took part in a mini triathlon (swim, bike, run). The boys did amazingly well, and we were blown away by the School Values they demonstrated individually and towards each other. They showed great Teamwork and Respect cheering each other on and celebrating each other's success! Well done boys we are very proud of you!



Freddie, Year 5

Freddie received Player of the Match on his second game of the rugby season for his sportsmanship. He was eager to praise the opposition and was always first to check on injured players. Well done, Freddie, we are very proud of you!



Elliot, Year 4

It's been an exciting few weeks for Elliot! He was recently invited to join Torquay United U9s and made his debut match on Saturday. Elliot is proud that his perseverance, dedication, and teamwork have been recognised, and he's looking forward to continuing to develop his skills both with his new team and his grassroots club, Watcombe Wanderers.



Outside of football, Elliot has also been working hard in other areas. He achieved Level 5 in swimming and earned several new badges at Cubs.

Well done, Elliot – what a brilliant example of determination and enthusiasm! We are proud of your achievements!



Bella, Year 1

Bella recently competed in two gym competitions and won seven medals! She had to learn two routines and competed in front of an audience. Well done Bella we are very proud of you!





Notice Board

Attendance

Regular attendance is key to your child's success. Pupils who attend school consistently achieve better academically, develop better social skills, and build a strong foundation for future learning. Frequent absences can lead to gaps in your child's knowledge.

At Preston, our goal is to ensure every pupil benefits from consistent classroom instruction and participation in school activities. We will monitor attendance patterns, work with parents to address barriers, and celebrate high attendance.

Together, we can create an environment where every pupil thrives.

Attendance Ladder



Coat extravaganza

Have spare coats that no longer fit? The Eco Committee need your support to recycle and reuse any spare coats you no longer need at home.

Please bring any coats you have at home that no longer fit but are in good condition into school by Thursday 23rd October.

We will create a stand on the drive on **Thursday 6th November** where families can come browse and pick a coat for FREE!

Save the planet!
Save money!
RECYCLE!

Christmas jumper swap

On **Monday 8th December**, we will be holding our annual Christmas Jumper Swap organised by the Eco Committee. If you have any primary school age Christmas Jumpers at home which no longer fit (age 5 upwards, including adults), please send your child in to school with the jumper on **Monday 8th December**. Your child can swap it for one that will fit for this year's festivities. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs McDade.

Thank you for continued support.



Admissions

We have a few spaces across some of our year groups (Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6). If you have any friends or relatives who might like to join Preston primary, please encourage them to contact the school office to request a tour, or visit the Local Authority website for further information:

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/admissions/>



Diary Dates



Key dates for Autumn 2. All dates are also on the school calendar on our website.

November	
Monday 3 rd November	Children return to school
Tuesday 4 th November	Flu immunisations
Tuesday 4 th November	FOPPS (PTA) AGM in school at 6pm
Wednesday 5 th November	New intake tours at 9:30am and 3:30pm
Thursday 6 th November	Eco-Committee Coat Stand on the school drive
Tuesday 11 th November	Unit 4 Remembrance Day assembly (for children)
Tuesday 11 th & Thursday 13 th November	Parent Teacher Meetings in the hall from 3:30-6:30pm
Wednesday 12 th November	New intake tour at 9:30am
Friday 14 th November	Choir at Plymouth Festival 1.30pm (further information to follow for choir members)
Tuesday 18 th November	New intake tour at 9:30am
Wednesday 19 th November	Connect Lego League at South Devon College (Digital Leaders and STEM club)
Wednesday 19 th November	Foundation Stage Maths Workshop at 5pm
Friday 21 st November	NCMP for Year R and Year 6 (National Child Measurement Programme)
Friday 21 st November	Children in Need – children can come to school wearing a Children in Need accessory with usual school uniform.
Wednesday 26 th November	New intake tours at 9:30am and 3:30pm



Diary Dates



Key dates for Autumn 2. All dates are also on the school calendar on our website.



December	
Wednesday 3 rd December	Foundation trip to St Pauls Preschool
Thursday 4 th December	FOPPS Elfridges Shop for children
Friday 5 th December	Barn Owls & Woodpeckers Rock Up & Read at 2:30pm
Monday 8 th December	Advent assembly for the children with Reverend Nathan Kiyaga
Monday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Swap
Tuesday 9 th December	Foundation Stage Nativity at 9:30am
Wednesday 10 th December	KS1 (Owls) Nativity at 9:30am and 2:30pm
Friday 12 th December	FOPPS Christmas Event from 3:15pm, with Father Christmas visiting the children in school during the afternoon. Children can come to school that day in non-uniform & please bring a donation of a bottle for the tombola.
Monday 15 th December	Unit 1 (FS) Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
Monday 15 th December	Unit 3 Carol Service at St Paul's Church at 6pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Unit 4 Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Unit 4 Carol Service at St Paul's at 6pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Whole School Christmas lunch
Wednesday 17 th December	Unit 3 Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
Thursday 18 th December	Unit Christmas parties – children can wear Christmas jumpers/tops to school with usual uniform
Thursday 18 th December	Unit 2 Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
Friday 19 th December	End of Term