



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Friday 14th November 2025



Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Let's Celebrate

This half term, we will be learning about celebrations and festivals. We will be talking about and answering the following:

1. Understand what a celebration is. Develop an understanding of different cultures and traditions.
2. Why, where, and how do people celebrate? Develop an understanding of similarities and differences.
3. What are my own celebration experiences and that of others. Develop respect for others and own understanding of their beliefs and values.
4. What is the significance of performing a Nativity?

The children enjoyed sharing their own experiences of different celebrations and we created a list of things that might occur during a celebration. For example, there might be a party with friends, family, decorations, food, fireworks, singing, dancing, and gifts.

Over the past two weeks we have focused our learning on a variety of celebrations. We started with Bonfire Night. The children have been talking about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot. Teaching children about historical events is important as it helps them to gain an understanding of time. Some of the vocabulary we have been using is November, Houses of Parliament, explode, plot, and past. The children talked about their own experiences of Bonfire night. It was lovely to listen to their stories.

To link to our learning about Bonfire night we had our own small fire in the Woodland Camp. The children also explored colour mixing to make colourful firework pictures.



Celebrations continued...

We have also been exploring the celebrations of birthdays and Christmas. We have been talking about why, where, and how people celebrate. Developing an understanding of similarities and differences. We used visuals to help us compare the different celebrations. The children noticed some similarities; that both celebrations were usually celebrated with friends and family, and that people celebrate by having special food and visiting special places.



We will now be focusing on the significance of performing a Nativity. The children have started practising some songs and we will be assigning roles for the nativity next week. We will communicate this to you in due course. We will also be visiting St Pauls Church on Wednesday 3rd December to talk to Reverend Nathan about the importance of Christmas for Christians.

HOME LEARNING

As part of home learning this week, please could you tell us about the different celebrations your family has enjoyed. These could be weddings, birthdays, religious festivals, christenings, anniversaries, or bonfire night. Please either send in or e-mail some photographs with an explanation about the celebrations or send us the details via Seesaw. We really appreciate your support, it really helps to have images from home to prompt discussion.

Remembrance

This week, the children held a two minute silence to remember those who have fought and lost their lives to protect us. We talked about the significance of the poppy and made our own poppies. The children demonstrated Respect and Responsibility.



School Value – Responsibility



'I am Responsibility Rex. I am always in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. I am very good at looking after our environment and take care of all the equipment and people in our school. I am responsible for my own learning and enjoy reaching my targets. I like challenges and I am proud of the things I do in order to achieve them.'

Our School Value focus this half term is Responsibility. We introduced the children to Responsibility Rex, our School Value dinosaur. The children took part in a carousel of activities to discuss and learn about the different responsibilities they have in school and at home. We were very impressed with their ideas and understanding of Responsibility.

They visited the rabbit and guinea pig, learning about their responsibilities to care for the school animals. The children discussed their responsibilities around the school and at home. They read the story 'Litterbug Doug' by Ellie Bethel and talked about their responsibility to look after the environment.

We will continue to learn about responsibility in school and we would love to see and hear about the responsibilities the children have at home. Please share a picture on seesaw of your child demonstrating responsibility, i.e. laying the table, tidying their bedroom, making their bed.



Maths Workshop for Parents and Carers



Dear Parents and Carers,

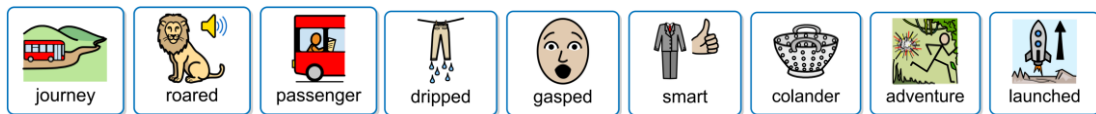
We look forward to seeing you at our Maths Workshop on Wednesday 19th November 5pm-6pm. You are very welcome to bring your child for the evening. We will talk about how maths is taught in Foundation then you will go to the classroom to try some activities with your child.

If your child is unable to attend, please feel free to come along by yourself.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Literacy – Whatever Next!

This half term we have been exploring the story book 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. We began by reading the story and creating a story map. The children then cut out pictures to sequence the story. We learnt new vocabulary linked to the book: journey, adventure, colander, launched, roared, dripped, gasped, passenger, and smart.



We made the story come to life with props. The children (and adults) have enjoyed using these props during choosing learning.



This week we have also enjoyed making jam sandwiches so that we could have a picnic on the moon – the children followed the instructions and enjoyed making (and eating!) their tasty snack. We used the vocabulary 'spread' and 'cut'. The children evaluated their sandwiches by deciding if they liked or disliked their sandwich.

The children were also challenged to create models and draw pictures of rockets. We have been impressed by their creativity and determination.

Enjoy the story on Seesaw read by Mrs Bastin.



Seasons

This week we talked about Autumn and signs of Autumn. The children noticed many leaves had changed colour and fallen from the tree. They collected a variety of leaves – big, small, green, brown, yellow, and red. Some children visited the park beside school to observe the enormous tree. They noticed that most of the leaves had fallen and they collected some interesting leaves to take back to class and observe.



Mathematics

In maths lessons we have been exploring the number 2 and talking about pairs. We know that a pair means two of something. We provided opportunities for the children to find a pair of objects and match objects which were the same. We asked the children the following questions. 'Can you find another one?' 'How do you know it is a pair?' We recapped matching pairs and enjoyed the game musical pairs!

We discussed why items like trousers and scissors are called a pair of trousers, a pair of glasses, and a pair of scissors. We discussed where is the 'twoness' in these items? Please discuss this with your child at home. We used our body parts to find pairs e.g. a pair of eyes, a pair of legs, a pair of shorts, a pair of shoes.

Trips

Over the year we try to provide a broad range of opportunities for the children to visit different places. This includes trips to the local area and further afield. When we visit the local area we either walk or use the school minibus.

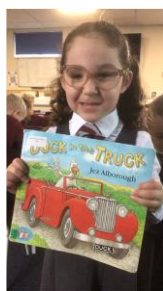
In December we will be visiting:

- 3rd December - St Pauls Church to look at features of the church and find out why Christmas is important to Christians.
- 10th December - Preston Community Pre-School to watch their Nativity.

These trips will be free of charge and we will be using the school minibus or walking.

Reading for Pleasure – Children's Choice

This half term we are encouraging children to bring in one of their favourite books from home to share with the class. This can be fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or even a magazine that they enjoy. Children can bring a book between now and the end of term. We will be encouraging every child to participate. If one of your child's favourite books is from the school library, please let us know and we will help them find it. We may keep the books in school for a few days so please be patient. We look forward to sharing a love of reading.



Home Learning for children and parents

On Friday 21st November 3.15pm – 3.45pm, we are holding an open phonic drop-in session. This will be in Puffins and Penguins classroom. After you collect your child you are welcome to come into the classroom to ask any questions you might have regarding phonics.



Home Learning for children and parents

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw - 'Whatever Next' read by Mrs Bastin
- 'Children's Choice' - Bring one of your favourite books into school to share with your friends.
- E-mail or send in photographs of your family celebrating different occasions. Or you can send them via Seesaw. The e-mail address is foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk
- Send an image on Seesaw of your child demonstrating Responsibility at home.
- Check your child's book bag or Seesaw for phonics activities and reading to complete at home.

Important Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 19th November – Foundation Maths Workshop 5-6pm

Friday 21st November 3.15pm – 3.45pm – Phonic drop-in session – enter the classroom via the playground

Wednesday 3rd December – Foundation Visit St Pauls Church

SAVE THE DATE - Tuesday 9th December – Foundation Nativity at 9.30am in the school hall

Wednesday 10th December – visit Preston Community Pre School to watch their Nativity

Monday 15th December – Foundation Rock Up and Read – more details to follow

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Lunch in School – more details to follow

Thursday 18th December – Christmas parties in school - more details to follow

Friday 19th December – Last day of term

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