



Half-Termly Newsletter

Issue 2: December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of all the children and staff at Preston Primary School, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas!

As we look back over the past term, it's clear that our school has been full of energy, enthusiasm, and wonderful learning. The children have thrown themselves into their work, and our corridors have been buzzing with curiosity, creativity, and growth. With Christmas just around the corner, that sense of excitement feels even more magical.

I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support. The partnership between parents, teachers, and staff plays such an important role in helping our children thrive, and I am truly grateful for everything you do. Your involvement in school life helps create the warm, supportive community we are so proud of at Preston Primary.

I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional dedication of our staff. They work tirelessly to provide a nurturing and inspiring environment for every child. Their commitment is outstanding, and I feel privileged to be part of such a wonderful team.

As we approach the Christmas holiday, I send my warmest wishes to you and your families. I hope the break brings joy, laughter, and plenty of special moments together.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 5th January**.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Oliver

Pupil Leadership - House Captains

Over this term, our wonderful House Captains have explored a variety of charities and the causes they support. Working in their House Captain pairs, they carefully selected charities with the aim of helping a diverse range of groups in need. Through this process, they have shown our School Aim of 'Be a Good Citizen' and shown the importance of giving back to the community. Each House then wrote to their chosen charity to share their fundraising ideas, including hosting a House assembly to raise awareness of their cause.



Here are the chosen charities for each House:



Broadsands - British Heart Foundation - Funds medical research and education into heart and circulatory diseases.

Goodrington - Punk Against Poverty - They provide essential items, like food and school uniform, for those in financial hardship.

Lievermead - Animals in Distress - Rescue, care for, and rehome unwanted or abandoned animals.

Meadfoot - Cancer Research - Funds medical research into providing cures and treatments for cancer as well as family support.



Celebrating Christmas



Christmas Festivities

Nativity Performances

Last week, our Foundation Stage and KS1 children were absolute superstars in their nativity performances, beautifully re-telling the story of the birth of Jesus. Every child sang and acted brilliantly, and they all looked wonderful in their costumes. Thank you for joining us to watch the performances and for the time and effort you put into creating such fantastic outfits.

KS2 Carol Concerts

This week, we had our Unit 3 and Unit 4 Carol Services at St Paul's Church. It was wonderful to see so many of our families joining in with the congregational Christmas carols and for our school community to come together and celebrate this festive time of year. Thank you to the children who volunteered to read lines and re-tell the Christmas story.

Events with our Choir

On Friday 28th November, sixteen choir members sang at the Blossoms Winter Music Concert. Their lively and harmonious performance captivated the audience showing enthusiasm and determination. On Sunday 30th November our choir delivered another wonderful performance at the Salvation Army Church Christmas Service. Their beautiful singing and exemplary behaviour earned admiration from everyone present. The choir demonstrated our School Aim of 'Love to Learn.'

Eco-Committee Christmas Jumper Swap

Our Eco-Committee are passionate about helping our school community care for the environment. They organised our annual Christmas jumper swap and have been thinking carefully about the small changes we can all make to protect our planet. Through their actions, they demonstrated our School Aim of 'Being a Good Citizen.'

Foundation Stage visiting St Pauls Preschool

Building strong community links is essential because it helps us create meaningful connections that support and strengthen our school family. Foundation Stage demonstrated this beautifully by inviting Preston Community Preschool to watch their nativity last week. The children loved performing for their visitors and sharing the festive spirit.

This week, Puffins and Penguins walked to the preschool and were treated to an adorable nativity performance – some of the children were not even two years old! It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to be part of an audience: they were extremely respectful and responsible throughout the visit.



Be a
Good
Citizen

Love to
Learn

Our Enquiry Subjects

Ready
for
Work

Art

Love to
Learn

A Term of Creative Portraits

This half term, our school has been celebrating the art of drawing through a whole-school focus on portraits. Each year group explored different styles and techniques, inspired by famous artists:

Reception: Simple self-portraits, learning to observe and represent themselves.

Year 1 & 2: Bold line portraits focussing on the formation of facial features inspired by the work of **Henri Matisse**.

Year 3 & 4: Expressive pencil and charcoal portraits influenced by **Pablo Picasso**.

Year 5 & 6: Stunning watercolour portraits to express mood, inspired by **Picasso's Blue Period**.

Their creativity and determination have shone through in every piece, making this term a true celebration of artistic expression.



Music

This half term, our school has been filled with the joyful sound of music! The children have shown wonderful creativity and determination in their musical enquiries, truly living out our School Aim of 'Love to Learn'. From singing to playing the glockenspiel in time with the music, they have impressed us with their enthusiasm and progress.

Unit 1: Children have been listening to and responding to different styles of music. They've enjoyed singing nursery rhymes and action songs, building confidence and expression.

Unit 2: Pupils have explored the building blocks of music—pulse, rhythm, and pitch. They've discovered that music has a steady beat and is made up of long and short, high and low sounds.

Unit 3: Learners have investigated musical structures, understanding how verses and choruses repeat or alternate to create the form of a song.

Unit 4: Children have combined music with technology, learning how songs are created using Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs). They've compared live and digital sounds and gained valuable skills in music production, sparking their creativity even further.

It has been a vibrant and inspiring term, and we are so proud of the musical journeys each class has taken.



Our Enquiry Subjects

History

Over this half term, our children have taken part in a wide range of engaging learning experiences in **History**, helping them to deepen their understanding of the past and how it shapes the world we live in today. It has been wonderful to see them confidently applying the skills that help them to **think like historians** – from exploring chronology and interpreting evidence to investigating causes and consequences and identifying similarities and differences across time. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have truly shone through! So, what have our children been up to?

Unit 2 – Why do we have Bonfire Night on the 5th November?

Pupils explored the dramatic events of the Gunpowder Plot and considered why this moment in history is still remembered today. They examined historical sources, discussed the reliability of evidence, and reflected on how this event has shaped traditions over time.

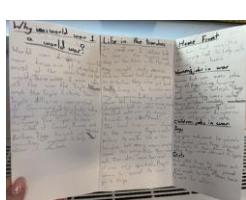
Unit 3 – Why did the Anglo-Saxons and Scots settle in Britain?

This enquiry focused on migration and settlement. Children investigated the reasons behind these movements, considering push and pull factors, and explored what life was like for these communities. They applied their understanding of cause and consequence and compared similarities and differences between groups.

Unit 4 – Why do we remember the 11th November?

Learners examined the significance of Remembrance Day and its origins in the aftermath of World War I. They explored continuity and change in how we commemorate and reflected on why remembering matters today. Pupils used evidence to understand the impact of war on people's lives and considered different perspectives. Early in this enquiry, children also led our annual Remembrance Service for the school, where the children showed excellent respect and responsibility in their roles in leading the assembly.

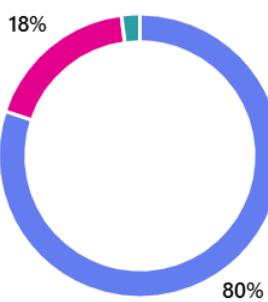
Throughout these enquiries, our pupils have shown fantastic curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration. It has been wonderful to see them apply our School Aim, **Love to Learn**, with such enthusiasm and confidence. Their engagement in History this half term has been a joy to witness, and we are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



Parent Survey

Thank you to all our parents who completed our survey during Parents' Evening. We had over 200 families complete it! Your feedback is an invaluable tool that helps us celebrate what we are doing well and identify the areas where we can continue to improve. We are incredibly proud of our school and the amazing children who make it such a special place. Your input supports our ongoing commitment to providing the very best for them. Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Not applicable

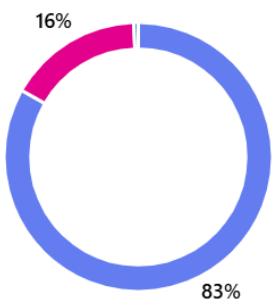


“My child is happy at school.”

98% of parents agree that their child or children are happy at Preston.

“My child feels safe at school.”

99% of parents agree that their child feels safe at Preston.

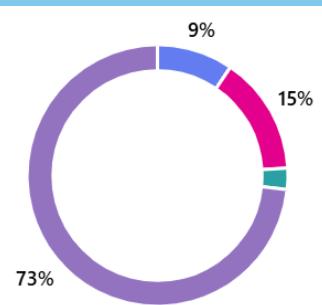


“The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year e.g. newsletters and knowledge organisers..”

99% of parents agree that they are made aware of what their child is learning in school.

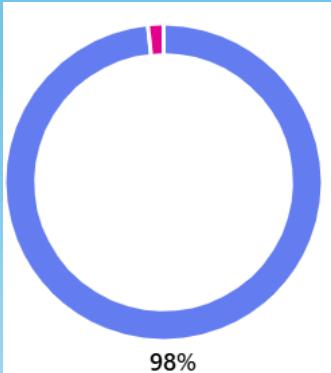
“My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.”

Of the 50 parents that were applicable, 90% agreed that their child with SEND has the support they need to succeed.



“I would recommend Preston Primary School to other parents.”

98% of parents agree that they would recommend Preston Primary to other parents.



Welcome to Our School Governors

We are delighted to introduce our Chair of Governors and three new school governors, who have recently joined our governing body. Each brings valuable experience, insight, and a shared commitment to supporting our school community and helping every child thrive. Our governors play an essential role in shaping the strategic direction of the school, ensuring we maintain high standards, and championing the needs of all our pupils. We are grateful to them for volunteering their time and expertise to help us continue to grow and improve.

Please say hello, share ideas, or ask questions when you see the governors during drop off and pick up time.

I'm Esther, mum to Alfred in year 6 and Freddie in year 3.



My professional background is as a doctor. I did my medical training in Oxford, before working as a GP in Gloucestershire. As a family, we relocated to Torbay in 2021, and I am now a GP in Paignton. Through my work, I have experience in safeguarding and an understanding of the challenges facing our children.

Outside of work, I can usually be found supporting my children on the sidelines of their many sporting endeavours. I am also a keen musician.

I have been a parent governor at Preston since the 23/24 academic year, and Chair of Governors from March 2025. Over the past 2 years, it has been a privilege to be a part of the governing body for our school; a school which aspires to such high standards, with the school values at the heart of everything that they do.

Hi, I'm Fran, and I'm really excited to be joining the school governors. I have two children at the school – one in Year 1 and one in Year 4 – so I'm very much in the thick of school life and all the joyful chaos that comes with it.

I've been involved with the school community for a while, including three years on the PTA, two of those as Chair, which gave me a good understanding of how much passion and hard work goes into making the school the brilliant place it is.

Outside the school gates, I'm a photographer, and I also co-founded a magazine that champions women in business across Devon. Before that, I worked in marketing and product development, so I'm used to problem-solving, planning, and helping projects grow.



I'm Peter Sharp. As a parent of three happy children at the school – Beatrix, Caspian, and Tabitha – it is a privilege to support the governing body.



My background is as a Management Consultant, advising on strategy and business improvement topics across a range of industries, including Technology, Government, Industrials, and Consumer Goods. I look forward to applying this experience to support the team in maintaining the already high standards at Preston.

Outside of work, my wife, Scarlett, and I love travel and good food – though the adventurousness of both gets heavily negotiated down by the kids in this phase of life!

My name is Zach, and I am delighted to be joining the Local Governing Body as a Parent Governor. I have three children, two of whom currently attend Preston; Oliver in Reception, and Daniel in Year 2 within the Nest provision. I also have a younger daughter who I hope will join the school community in a couple of years' time.

In my day-to-day work, I lead teams in statistical programming within the pharmaceutical industry, where I spend most of my time helping to make sense of clinical trial data and leading both project teams and supporting drug governance. Outside of work and family time, you'll find me playing rugby at Torquay Athletic Rugby Club – usually with more enthusiasm than skill!

I'm relatively new to working with teams at the school, but I hope to bring curiosity, thoughtful challenge, and to represent the whole of the parent community within the Governing Body. I'm really looking forward to working with the other governors to support the school's continued growth and success.





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.

Mikey, Year 3

Recently, Mikey achieved his three-year medal & certificate at Stagecoach Performing Arts.

What a great achievement Mikey, well done!



Alfred Year 6

Alfred is one of three children nationally accepted this year onto the U14s national age group programme for wheelchair tennis with the LTA. The coaches at the LTA have been really impressed by his work ethic, dedication, and progression over the year and he has been rewarded with a place on the programme.

What a fantastic achievement, Alfred, we are very proud of you!



Sophie, Year 4

Sophie played her first match for Torquay United under 9 girls last weekend, and scored a goal in her debut game.

Fantastic news, Sophie!



Ayda, Year 2

Last weekend, Ayda took part in her first gymnastics competition. There were lots of other gymnasts and she was in a group with 15 other children her age. There were 3 events – trampette (vault), beam, and floor. Ayda was delighted to be awarded a bronze for trampette and joint gold for beam. Fantastic news, Ayda, well done!



Olwen, Year 1

Olwen received her Junior Parkrun 'Ultramarathon' band last weekend, having completed 50 Junior Parkruns. Each Parkrun is 2km long and takes place every Sunday morning at 9am at Torbay VeloPark.



Well done, Olwen!

Alex, Year 5, and Maya, Year 6

Alex and Maya have recently received the Chief Scout Silver Award, which is the top award for Cub Scouts. To achieve this, they had to compete in 6 challenge badges that showed they had learned new skills, had helped their community, and been kind, supportive, and adventurous in all the challenges they undertook. Well done, we are very proud of you both!





Notice Board

FOPPS (Friends of Preston Primary School)

We extend a tremendous thank you to our wonderful FOPPS committee and everyone who contributed to our Christmas Fair. Your continued generosity makes a real difference! This year, funds raised from previous FOPPS events will support the purchase of new iPads – an essential resource to prepare our pupils for the future, encourage teamwork, to support and showcase children's learning, and for adaptive learning. In addition, a portion of the funds will also be allocated to new play equipment for the woodland camp so children can make safe, creative use of the outdoor environment.



FOPPS Christmas Event

Thank you to everyone who supported the FOPPS Christmas event last Friday. It was so fantastic to see so many families having fun and getting in the festive spirit. A huge thank you to FOPPS for organising the event. A big thank you also for arranging a visit from Father Christmas. The children loved meeting Santa and receiving a present from him!



Breakfast & After School Club

Can we remind you that if you need to use **Breakfast or After School clubs**, please ensure you book in advance using Arbor.

Breakfast Club opens at 7.40am. Please ensure you hand over your child to a member of the Breakfast Club staff any time after 7.40am. Many thanks for your support.

Pastoral Update

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Mrs Jordain, a highly valued member of our Pastoral Team, will be leaving Preston at the end of this term. Mrs Jordain has been part of the Preston community for the past six years and has worked closely with many families, providing dedicated support to help improve children's school experiences.

We would like to thank Mrs Jordain for her commitment, care, and the positive impact she has had on our school community, and we wish her every success in her next chapter.

Please be aware that while arrangements are being made, there may be a slight delay in responses from the Pastoral Team. If your matter is urgent, please contact the school office or speak with your child's class teacher.

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.

Admissions

We have a few spaces across some of our year groups (Year R, Year 1, Year 5 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 Spring 1. All dates are also on the school calendar on our website.

January	
Monday 5th January	Children return to school
Wednesday 7th January	Livermead House Assembly (Animals in Distress)
Monday 12th January	Activity Clubs start
Thursday 15th & Friday 16th January	Unit 4 Choir Trip - Young Voices
Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd January	Unit 4 Geography Trip to Dawlish Warren
Thursday 22nd January	Kestrels Sports Festival
Thursday 22nd January	Goodrington House Assembly (Punk Against Poverty)
Tuesday 27th January	Unit 3 trip to St Pauls Church for RE Learning Enquiry
Thursday 29th January	Sparrows Sports Festival
Thursday 29th January	Unit 4 South Devon College workshop
Thursday 29th January	Broadsands House Assembly (British Heart Foundation)



Diary Dates

Key dates for Spring 1. All dates are also on the school calendar on our website.

February	
Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd February	Foundation Stage Library Trips
Thursday 5th February	Tawny Owls Sports Festival
Tuesday 10th February	Unit 4 Parents Book Look at 2:45pm
Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th February	Foundation Stage Library Trips
Wednesday 11th February	Unit 2 Parents Book Look at 2:45pm
Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th February	Nest parent review meetings
Thursday 12th February	Unit 3 Parents Book Look at 2:45pm
Friday 13th February	Disco & non-uniform day. Last day of half term
16th-22nd February	Half Term
Monday 23rd February	Children return to school