



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026



Love to Learn

Be a Good Citizen

Ready for Work



Learning Experience – When I Grow Up...

This half term our learning experience is titled 'When I Grow Up'. We will be talking to the children about some of the many opportunities they have in the future workplace. We will be linking the learning to our School Aim of 'Ready for Work' and looking closely at how our School Values are important future skills.

We will talk about a variety of jobs and how they are important in our lives. We will focus on a few jobs in particular to answer the following questions:

1. What jobs do people have? Develop an understanding of people's jobs and how they support us in our lives.
2. How have some jobs changed over time?
3. What will you be when you grow up? Develop an understanding of the broad life options. Expand on and challenge stereotypical assumptions.

We have high expectations for every child, and it is important that they feel confident in their abilities and are aspirational.



We will be exploring lots of different jobs over the coming weeks. In the meantime, we have some home learning for the parents.

PARENT HOME LEARNING!

It would be lovely if you could share your own career experiences with the children. Talk to your child about your current job and any other jobs you have had in the past. Then, if anyone would like to create a one-page A4 profile about their job or a job they have done in the past, we would love to share these with all the children and possibly create a folder to put on our bookshelf. You could include a photo and detail your job and the role you have. You could write about your favourite part of the job, any special equipment you use, if you wear a uniform, and any training you had. If you can link your job to our School Values that would be wonderful. This is of course optional, but it would be very special for the children. You could send in a paper copy or submit an electronic version via e-mail (foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk or Seesaw).

Thank you for your support.



School Value - Independence

Our School Value this half term is Independence. In Foundation we learn the school values through dinosaurs. The children were introduced to 'Independasaurus'.



"I am Independasaurus. I like to have a go at doing things by myself and I am able to concentrate and focus really well. I am good at having a go and trying out different ways, even if I find things tricky because this is when I am learning the most. I know that it is fine to make mistakes as this is how I learn new things."



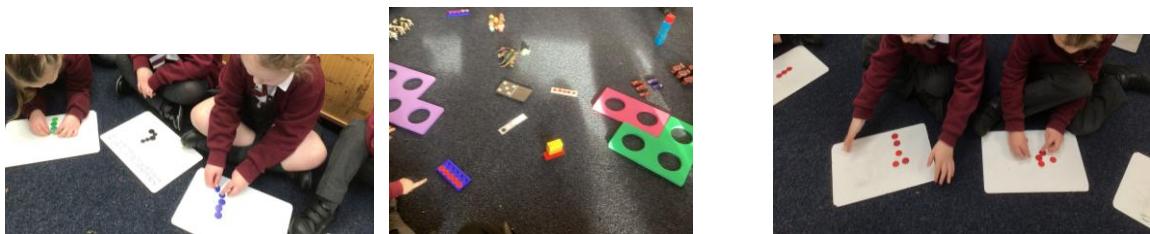
The children spent an afternoon exploring how they can be independent and why it is important. We talked about how being independent doesn't mean you cannot ask for help, it is about trying yourself first. They took part in a carousel of activities talking about and demonstrating independence. This included dressing up, singing songs, listening to, and talking about the story of Zog. They also coloured in a picture of Independasaurus and used iPads to take a photo and recorded themselves explaining how they use Independence.

We will assign an Independence activity on Seesaw for the children to complete this half term.

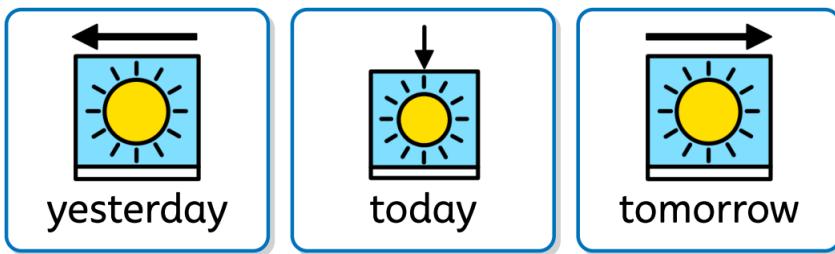
Maths

In Maths we have been exploring number 5. We have talked about the composition of the number being 4 and 1 more. Children went on number hunts to find representations of 5 and talk about the different parts they could see. They arranged 5 counters into different patterns and talked about what they noticed. They made a variety of arrangements.

Noticing patterns within a number, using different representations, is important for a child's mathematical fluency and special awareness. We will continue exploring number 5.



Also, in maths we explored calendars, how they are represented differently, and the concept of time. We talked about the 12-month cycle and then focused on the concept of a week. The children soon realised that the 7 days of the week are also a cycle. We looked specifically at the months January and February, and the events that are coming up in those months. We included birthdays and other events. We located the current day and used the language of yesterday, today and tomorrow.



We keep a calendar on display in the classroom to countdown the days to special events. It is important we continually talk to children about the concept of time in order to help them develop their thinking and understanding. We will be exploring this further by creating our own timelines in the next few weeks.

Baby Photos

As part of our learning experience, we will be making simple timelines. Please could you send in a baby photo of your child to use on their timeline. You can either send in a physical photograph and we can take a copy, or alternatively, you could send a photo via Seesaw or e-mail
foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk

Thank you for your support.

Torquay Library Trips

As part of our curriculum, we strive to give children opportunities to be immersed in a love of reading. This half term we will give every child in Foundation the opportunity to visit Torquay Library. We will take small groups of children on the school minibus for a short visit during school hours. This will also link closely to our current learning experience 'When I Grow Up' as we will be talking about the role of a Librarian.

We will take small groups of children on the school minibus to Torquay Library on the following dates 2nd, 3rd, 10th and 11th February. We will use consents and medical information from Arbor. You will receive a message if your child leaves school to attend the trip. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask a class teacher.



PE – Rosie's Walk

This week we used the book 'Rosie's Walk' by Pat Hutchins as our inspiration for a PE circuit. The children had to travel over the haystack (bench), around the pond (floor mat), through the fence (play tunnel), and under the beehives (hurdles). The children enjoyed the variety in using a range of equipment and in moving in different ways.



Woodland Camp

It was a frosty trip to the Woodland Camp this week. The children were fascinated by the ice. As the sun came out it prompted lots of discussion about liquids and solids. It was wonderful to spend time with nature.



Celebration Assembly

Every Friday we will attend a whole school celebration assembly. This is an opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful learning that has happened over the week. House Captains host the assembly and award certificates to children who have achieved 10, 25, 50, 75, and 100 School Value stickers. This is also an opportunity for teachers to award class trophies to children who demonstrate their School Values. The Digital Leaders then take photos of children who are awarded trophies and put these on Seesaw for families to see.

If your child receives a class trophy, they can keep it at home for the weekend and then return it to school on the following Monday.



Reading for Pleasure – Recommend to a Friend – home learning

We have assigned a special activity on Seesaw this week titled, 'Recommend a book to your friend'. We would like all children to send us **an image of themselves holding a book** from home or one they have borrowed from the local library that they would like to recommend to their friends. With the photo, please **type a very short review telling us what they enjoy about the book** and why they think their friends would like it. Your child could even do a voice recording telling us why they enjoy the book.

We will then include one or two of these recommendations in future newsletters. It would be wonderful to make this an ongoing feature of the newsletter, but we need your continued support to make it happen. We look forward to seeing their recommendations. Below are a few examples from previous years:

'10 Little Dinosaurs' by Mike Brownlow

recommended by Ralph



I like counting down the dinosaurs and when they come back to each other at the end.

'100 Dogs – by Michael Whalte'

recommended by Ollie



I love this book because its about dogs and it is so funny. Its got so many dogs, 100 dogs!

'Zog' by Julia Donaldson

recommended by Harlie



My favourite book is Zog. I like it because he gets a gold star. I like that the princess wants to be a doctor.

Home Learning for children and parents

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw - 'Rosie's Walk'
- Check your child's book bag or on Seesaw for phonics activities and reading.
- Complete the Independence challenge on Seesaw.
- Send in a baby picture by Tuesday 20th January (via Seesaw or e-mail foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk or send in an actual photograph)
- Find out about your parents' jobs. **PARENTS – Remember you have home learning as well (details above)!**
- Decide which book you would like to 'Recommend to a Friend' and send a photo and review via Seesaw or e-mail it to foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk More information can be found above.
- Send in a baby photo. More details above.

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