

Unit 3 Spring 1 Newsletter 2026

Key Dates:

Tuesday 27th January – St Paul's Church trip
 Thursday 29th January – Sparrows Sports Festival
 Thursday 12th February – Book look in classrooms, 2:45pm.
 Friday 13th February – Last day. Non-uniform and FOPPS disco.
 Monday 23rd February – Children back to school.

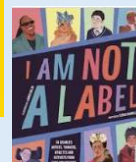
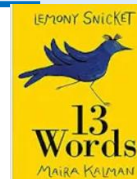
School Values:

This half term, in our Values Assemblies and PSHE lessons, we are learning about the value of Independence and linking this to the British Value of Individual Liberty. We will explicitly teach children that they can overcome obstacles using perseverance and by being resilient. In school, we can become independent by celebrating mistakes as mistakes help us to learn. Children will also learn the importance of having freedom to make their own decisions.



Literacy:

In Literacy this half term, we will be exploring creative writing and biographical writing. We will be reading the book 13 Words by Lemony Snicket and children will be writing their own story based on 13 random words. Children will need to design characters and a plot line around these 13 words and will learn how to punctuate speech and to use adjectives for description. Children will then read biographies of different people with disabilities and choose a person to write about. They will need to use paragraphs to organise their writing.



Enquiry Subjects:

This half term children will study Geography, DT, and Computing. In **Computing**, children will be answering the question, 'How can I make pictures move?'. They will be making stop frame animation videos using the iMotion app. This will require creative thinking and collaboration. In **Geography**, the children will be answering the question 'What is the same and different between the UK and Scandinavia?'. They will learn about the human and physical features of both places and draw their own comparisons between what life is like for people who live there. In **Design Technology**, children will be exploring electrical circuits when answering the question 'How is a torch made?'. They will work collaboratively in teams to design and make their own headtorch, suitable for a delivery driver.

Maths:

Maths is taught in separate year groups so your child may move classrooms for this lesson. In Year 3, children will recap the 2-, 5-, and 10-times tables before moving on to learn the 3- and 4- and 8-times tables. We will then focus on the related division facts within these tables. In Year 4, children will be learning written methods for multiplication and division involving 2 and 3-digit numbers. This will include renaming. Then, children will learn about different types of graphs in statistics.

Reading:

In school, we encourage all children to read daily. They take quizzes on Accelerated Reader (AR) about the books they have read and earn points for this. Children are also expected to log on to AR at home to quiz on the books they read at home. At the end of the half term, we will be giving certificates to every child who reaches their own individual target for points earned. To support passion and progression, we expect children to read daily at home for at least 15 minutes. Please support and encourage your child in this by listening to them read aloud often and talking about what they have read to help develop comprehension skills and develop an inquisitive nature about books. It is also beneficial for children to hear you read aloud to them regularly to help develop and maintain a love for reading. Modelling your own love of reading can really help your child's reading progress.

PE:

This half term we will be developing our Gymnastics and Ball Skills. Gymnastics will be indoors, and Ball skills will be outside. Please pack a coat!
 Our PE days are:

- Sparrows: Tuesday and Thursday.
- Starlings: Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Swifts: Monday and Wednesday.

Home Learning:

To support your child's learning at home we request that you:

- Read for 15 minutes a day and quiz on AR.
- Practise times tables on Times Tables Rockstars **daily**
- Practise spellings
- Enquiry Project: As part of our Design Technology homework, we would like children to design a bedside light for a child. They need to think carefully about who the product is for, how it will help, and what it should look like. They can bring their drawings into school or upload them to Teams.



Contact Us:

Please continue to contact the school office by email admin@preston.torbay.sch.uk or phone 01803 607075 with any questions or queries. There is also lots of useful information, as well as event dates and term dates, on our school website <https://www.preston.torbay.sch.uk/>

We kindly request that parents and carers do not send food to school for snacks or lunches that contains nuts.
 This includes: All types of nuts, spreads and sandwich fillings containing nuts like peanut butter and Nutella, cereal, chocolate bars, cakes, or biscuits which contain nuts