



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026



Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Learning Experience – When I Grow Up...

We are thoroughly enjoying our Learning Enquiry 'When I Grow Up'.

Over the past two weeks the children have been exploring timelines. We talked about what '**timeline**' means and have created several timelines. We talked about days, weeks, months, and years. Together we created a timeline for everything we do in one day.

The children discussed the significant events from the day and tried to put them in the correct order. They had discussions about how we take the register in the morning and in the afternoon. They had to justify and reason with one another about the order of events. They remembered that Read Write Inc lessons happen in the morning and recognised that they do not have lunch as soon as they come to school. Once we ordered the school day, they extended the timeline to include before and after school.



This week teachers demonstrated their own timelines! Children were fascinated by the significant events in their teachers' lives. They were able to help order some of the events by identifying particular features. For example, they knew that the baby picture had to come before the starting school picture. We were able to talk about a '**decade**' and what this means. They related this to their own lives, recognising that they had not experienced a whole decade yet and some of them were 5 years old which is half a decade.

Next week, the children will be creating their own simple timelines. If you are able to e-mail or post on Seesaw a baby photo of your child, we will use these in the timelines.

Home Learning - You might like to help your child create their own simple timeline at home. This could include pictures of special events in their life. For example: when they were born, their first steps, birthdays, holidays, starting nursery/school. You can create these on Seesaw or make a paper copy and bring them to school before half term. Have fun talking about the different events and putting them in date order.

Learning Experience – When I Grow Up...

Continued

To help the children gain a better understanding of time we created our very own scrap book. We included pictures of everything we had done in school during the Autumn Term. We used the vocabulary 'past' when exploring the photos. The children enjoyed sharing their memories and sticking the photos in the scrap book. The scrap book will be on the bookshelf for everyone to enjoy and we will keep adding to it.



As part of our learning experience the children have been brainstorming lots of different jobs. We then linked this to the vocabulary 'future'. Many children talked about what they would like to be when they grow up, or they shared the jobs of people in their family. They mentioned vets, teachers, builders, shop assistants, podiatrist, police officer, and many more. It was lovely to hear their aspirations and inspirations.

Ready for Work

One of our School Aims is 'Ready for Work'. Over the next few weeks Puffins and Penguins will be meeting a variety of people that will kindly share their jobs with us. They will hear about their different career experiences and try things out first hand. This will be linked to our School Values and School Aim 'Ready for Work'. If you have a career you would be willing to share with the children, please do get in touch or complete the home learning below.

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 book shelf. You could include a photo and detail your job and the role you have. You could write about our 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 to everyone who has already sent us an A4 page – they are truly wonderful and we will start to share them with the children next week.

When I Grow Up ... History of the Fire Service

Linking to our learning 'When I Grow Up....' and thinking like Historians, this week the children explored the history of the fire service. The children were fascinated by the changes in uniforms and how fire engines have evolved. We recapped the vocabulary '**past**' and how this means something that has happened already, maybe recently or a long time ago. We talked about The Great Fire of London in 1666. They were fascinated by the many facts including that there was no fire service and people had to tackle the fire using only leather buckets and squirters, getting water from the River Thames.

The children made their own human chain to transfer some water using a 'leather bucket.'



The children compared vehicles and uniforms through the years. They tried on an old metal helmet and compared it to a modern helmet. When looking at photographs, they noticed that some were not in colour. We talked about how a black and white photo does not always mean it is an old photo. We demonstrated this by taking a photo of ourselves and converting it to black and white.

Understanding time is a difficult concept for young children. Through a variety of experiences, we help children to understand that events have happened in the past and as a consequence things can change. It is important for children to be able to question, discuss, and make comparisons about historical events, photos, and objects.

We moved our thinking into the present day. We watched a video clip to give further insight into the role of a firefighter. Many of the children wanted to watch the clip again so here is the link for you to share together at home. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9RQDZEmf4I>

We will also put some of the images we looked at on Seesaw for you to discuss with your child.

Torquay Library Trips

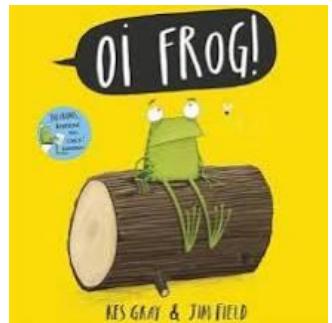
As part of our curriculum, we strive to give children opportunities to be immersed in a love of reading. This half term we will give every child in Foundation the opportunity to visit Torquay Library. We will take small groups of children on the school minibus for a short visit during school hours. This 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 via Arbor if your child leaves school to attend the trip. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask a class teacher.



Rhyming Story – Oi Frog

Over the past couple of weeks, the children have enjoyed the funny rhyming story 'Oi Frog' by Kes Gray and Jim Field. In the story the cat tells the animals to sit in unusual places that rhyme, e.g. lions sit on irons, seals sit on wheels, and puffins sit on muffins. The children found the story very funny, and they enjoyed predicting what the animals would be sitting on. We also discussed the characteristics of the frog and the cat.



We have enjoyed lots of different rhyming games including 'Silly Soup'. We added ingredients to the soup, but the ingredients had to rhyme as they were added. We sang a song whilst making the soup:

'We are making silly soup, we're making soup that's silly. We're going to cook it in the fridge, to make it nice and chilly. In goes...'

Bat and hat – dog and log – mouse and house



There is a rhyming activity on Seesaw for the children to enjoy, using their toy animals. We will share your photos from this home learning in class.

Woodland Camp

In the Woodland Camp Puffins and Penguins have been artists. They have been painting with mud using natural objects as stencils. There was so much creativity and lots of mud!



PE

Everyone enjoyed participating in PE this week. The children were practising the skills of balancing, moving, and climbing. They followed a circuit of apparatus which enabled them to balance and move in different ways. They also climbed over the agility tables demonstrating how they can manage risk and move safely. As the children repeated the circuit, they gained confidence in the skills and could articulate what they found tricky. Well done Puffins and Penguins.



We are committed to improve the oral health and well-being of young children, which is why we are so passionate about the NHS toothbrushing scheme, 'Big Brush Club'. We have been using the scheme for many years now and we have the funding to implement the scheme again this year. It is essential for children to understand the importance of keeping their teeth clean and becoming more independent.

Children in Foundation will brush their teeth every day after lunch in school. They will be supervised by an adult and have their own toothbrush stored in a rack. They brush their teeth to a special song for 2 minutes. All staff follow the NHS guidelines and are trained by the programme facilitators.

We will be starting the programme this term and a dental nurse will be visiting school to introduce the programme with the children next week. Please click on the link to complete the consent form by **Friday 30th January** for your child to participate

[Supervised Toothbrushing Consent Form 2026 – Fill in form](#)

It would be wonderful if all children were able to participate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Reading for Pleasure – Recommend to a Friend

Thank you for all your recommendations. Here are few we would like to share this week:



This is one of my favourite books. I love learning about space and all the different planets



"I really love this book because I really love unicorns. It has fluff on the front of the book, and it has different feelings inside the book as well."



I think my friends will like this book because it's got a cat and a dragon in it and it's got a funny part.



I would like to recommend this book. It is about farms that grow different kinds of fruit and vegetables for Marks and Spencer. You learn about different kinds of farming and how they look after their animals.

My favourite part is when Amalia cooks lots of food for her Grandad's birthday. It makes me happy.

I think you will like this book because it makes you think about where your food comes from and how it is grown and cooked.

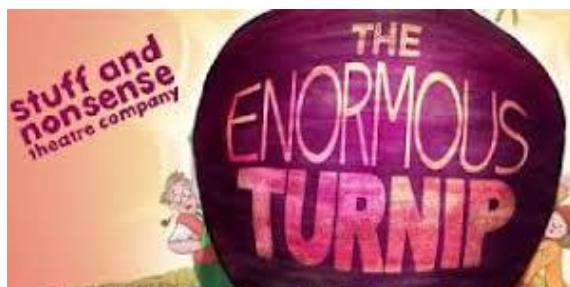
Theatre trip – 1st April 2026 – payment due

We will be visiting the **Theatre Royal Plymouth** on **Wednesday 1st April 2026** to see the show '**The Enormous Turnip**'. Payments can be made on Arbor under trips. The payment is due by Monday 26th January as we have a deadline to pay the final balance to the theatre.

The show is a mixture of both actors and puppetry. It will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to see live a performance of storytelling.

If you have any queries, please speak to a class teacher.

[The Enormous Turnip show trailer](#)



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, 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.



Home Learning for children and parents

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw – ‘A Loud Winter’s Nap’ read by Mrs Gebhard
- 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 Monday 26th 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
- Look at the pictures on Seesaw and about the history of the fire service
- Complete the rhyming activity on Seesaw
- Complete the toothbrushing consent form – [Supervised Toothbrushing Consent Form 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Important Dates

- Monday 2nd February – Small group trips to Torquay Library
- Tuesday 3rd February – Small group trip to Torquay Library
- Tuesday 10th February – Small group trip to Torquay Library
- Tuesday 11th February – Small group trip to Torquay Library
- Friday 13th February – Non Uniform day and school disco (during the school day). More information to follow.
- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February – Half Term
- Monday 23rd February – Back to School

More dates can be found on the school website - [Calendar at Preston Primary School](#)

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