



Half-Termly Newsletter

Issue 3: February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

January can often feel like a particularly long month, with its dark mornings and wet, wintery weather. However, as we move into February, there is much to celebrate across our school community. The children have been fully engaged in a range of rich and exciting learning enquiries as part of our curriculum, and it has been a pleasure to see their enthusiasm and curiosity in action. We have welcomed several visitors into school, all of whom have commented on the calm, nurturing environment that our children and staff create together.

This half term, our House Captains have welcomed local charities, Punk Against Poverty and Animals in Distress, into school to take part in our House Assemblies. This has been a wonderful example of our School Aim, 'Be a Good Citizen' as it helps to build strong community connections and encourages pupils to understand and engage in active citizenship.

We have now revised our Behaviour and Relationship Policy. Here is the link to it on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/Behaviour-Relationship-Policy>

I would like to thank our dedicated staff, our supportive parents, and—most importantly—our wonderful children for all they have done to make this half term such a success. We now look forward to another exciting half term ahead.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Warmest wishes
Mrs Oliver

Love to
Learn

Be a
Good
Citizen

Sporting Success

This term, our aim of developing competitive sport has truly been under way. Many of our enthusiastic footballers have represented our school and played in the Paignton schools football league. Paignton Academy has been a hive of footballing action for our Year 5/6 boys and girls' teams and our mixed Year 3/4 team. We are proud of every single player who demonstrated strong commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship in every fixture. Regardless of the results, each game has helped the children develop their skills and strengthen their connection as a team.

Our Year 5 and 6 boys football team had an exciting day at the recent Bradfords Primary School Community Cup tournament, where they took on teams from across Devon with energy, skill, and great team spirit! Throughout the event, they showed determination on the pitch, worked together brilliantly, and played with true sportsmanship.

A small group of our Year 3 and 4 children had a fantastic time attending the recent Bee Netball Skills Festival at Paignton Academy. The event focused on developing key netball skills through a variety of fun, engaging activities designed to build confidence, teamwork, and coordination. The children rotated through different skill stations, practising passing, shooting, footwork, and movement, all while working together and encouraging one another.



Celebrating Our Learning

Ready
for
Work

Love to
Learn

Enriching Our Curriculum

Unit 4 had a fantastic learning adventure to Dawlish Warren recently. The children travelled by train—one of our '30 Ways to Connect'—and enjoyed spotting coastal features along the Dawlish line, including arches, stacks, and stumps. Once at Dawlish Warren, they explored the impact of coastal erosion and investigated a range of coastal defences such as groynes, rock armour, and the sea wall.

Unit 4 - were delighted to welcome back Jack Davey, head coach from Exeter Otters basketball team this week. He delivered fun and engaging wheelchair basketball sessions to all children in Years 5 and 6. The children familiarised themselves with the wheelchair by playing games and moving around the hall. They practised skills in dribbling, passing, and shooting. The sessions enabled children to understand that you do not need to have a disability to play wheelchair basketball.

A group of Years 5 and 6 children visited South Devon College this week to participate in a STEM workshop. This was a fantastic opportunity for children to demonstrate our School Aim, 'Ready for Work' and raise aspirations to many different career opportunities. We are grateful for our strong links with South Devon College.

Unit 3 visited St Pauls Church to learn about the story of the Good Samaritan delivered by Reverend Nathan. The children had an opportunity to reflect upon where and when they can be good Samaritans in their lives. A great example of our School Aim, 'Be a Good Citizen'.

Sports Festival - this half term Kestrels, Sparrows, and Tawny Owls classes have participated in a Handball and Tchoukball Sports Festival at Paignton Academy, The children embraced each activity with great passion for learning capturing our School Aim, 'Love to Learn'.

Foundation Stage children, as part of their Learning Enquiry, 'When I Grow Up', have had a range of parents visit this half term to talk to the children about their professions. A postman, a dental nurse, an architect, and a photographer have visited. Thank you to all the wonderful parents for giving up their time to speak to the children.



Be a
Good
Citizen



✨ Preston Primary School Shines at Young ✨ Voices Birmingham Concert!

What an unforgettable experience for our thirteen amazing Year 5 and 6 pupils who represented Preston Primary School at the Young Voices Concert at Birmingham's Live Arena last month. They were joined by other Connect Academy Trust pupils, and over 6000 children from across the country, to perform as part of one of the largest school choirs in the World.

Well done to all the children who took part, we couldn't be prouder of you!



Our Enquiry Subjects

Ready
for
Work

Love to
Learn

Computing

Our children have shown a fabulous Love of Learning in Computing this half term, approaching each enquiry with curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm.

In Unit 2, children have been exploring the big question: **How do robots move?** They have been learning how algorithms work and experimenting with step-by-step instructions to help robots move accurately and purposefully. This has helped them develop their Creativity as they solved problems and designed their own movement sequences.

In Unit 3, children have been answering the question: **How Can I Make Pictures Move?** Using the iMotion app, they have been creating their own stop-frame animations, building their skills in planning, sequencing, and collaborating. It has been wonderful to see children showing excellent Teamwork in class - and a real pleasure watching the animations many children have independently created at home too!

In Unit 4, children have been answering the enquiry question: **How can I use shapes and lines to create a digital image?** Through hands-on exploration of vector drawing, they have been developing their digital art skills, experimenting with layering, resizing and combining shapes to produce creative and eye-catching designs.

Across all Units, we have been incredibly impressed with the Independence children have shown through their optional computing homework and the digital creations they've shared with us from home. Thank you for your continued support.

Across the school this half term, children have also continued developing their Digital Literacy, learning how to stay safe when using devices and online platforms. This links strongly to our school value of Responsibility, as children learn to make safe, sensible choices whenever they are online.

In the final week of this half term, children in Key Stage 2 also took part in a BBC Live Lesson, as part of Safer Internet Day (10.02.2026) which focused on how to stay safe when using AI - an important and topical part of their digital world.

Well done to all our incredible young digital learners!



Our Enquiry Subjects

Ready
for
Work

Love to
Learn

Geography

Across the school, geography learning has been rich, engaging, and closely linked to real-world experiences.

In Unit 1, the children have been making observations in the Woodland Camp and exploring the impact of different weather conditions. They found the frosty mornings particularly fascinating and had fun playing with ice.

In Unit 2, pupils explored the big question *“How do different climates affect how you live?”*. They developed an understanding of climate zones and have compared the UK to Kenya.

Unit 3 focused on comparison skills, answering *“What is the same and different between the UK and Scandinavia?”*. Pupils investigated physical and human geography, identifying similarities, and differences in landscapes, population, and climate.

In Unit 4, learning centred on the enquiry *“How do coastlines change over time?”* Pupils studied coastal processes such as erosion and deposition and considered the impact of these changes on people and places. This learning was brought to life through a fantastic fieldwork opportunity, with Unit 4 travelling by train to Dawlish Warren to see flood defences in action along the coastline. This experience perfectly reflected our school aim of *“Love to Learn”*, giving pupils first-hand insight into how geography shapes and protects our world.



Our Fantastic FOPPS (Friends of Preston Primary School)

We are incredibly fortunate to have a wonderful FOPPS team at Preston Primary! Their hard work is invaluable and provides the children with many additional opportunities and resources. FOPPS have kindly donated £5000 so we can buy seventeen new iPads. Using technology as part of our curriculum prepares the children for a digital world and is fundamental to our School Aim of Ready for Work.

Thank you to FOPPS for also organising our wonderful disco and sourcing a DJ this half term.

Raising Money for Our School

A huge thank you to Mr Illman for raising £700 for The Nest. Mr Illman ran everyday during the month of January and the total distance he ran was 175k. The money will be used for den building equipment to use in the Woodland Camp.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Mr Morton and The Offshore Bar and Restaurant for their generous donation of £300 to our school. This contribution was made in recognition of our choir's performances at the Christmas Bay of Lights, and it will help us purchase musical instruments for our pupils.



Our Enquiry Subjects

Love to
Learn

Design and Technology

This half term in Design and Technology, pupils have been learning to think like **designers, makers, and evaluators** as they explore how products are created and improved. Across the school, children have been introduced to key inventions and inventors, helping them understand how ideas develop into real-world solutions - and how they can do the same.

- **Unit 1 – How can I design and make buildings in my community?**
Pupils in EYFS have started a Lego programme called 'Boomtown Build'. Each week they have been designing and making different community buildings. They have been learning early STEM skills and demonstrating our school value teamwork as they work in small groups to create new ideas and solve real life problems.
- **Unit 2 – How can we make a healthy, tasty drink?**
Children have explored what ingredients can be used to make a smoothie, how fruits and vegetables can be identified, and different ways to prepare ingredients to make a smoothie. They have created their own drinks and evaluated them against their design criteria.
- **Unit 3 – How is a torch made?**
Pupils studied how torches work, built simple circuits, and tested their designs, They learnt about the inventor of the light bulb and torches, and designed a head lamp torch that a delivery driver could use on a dark morning. They thought clearly about their audience in their designs.
- **Unit 4 – How can computer-aided design be used to solve practical problems?**
Pupils in Unit 4 learnt all about computer-aided design and used the app TinkerCad to design a sea defence for Preston to protect the coastline. They learnt about the inventor of computer-aided design and how it is helping to shape the future world. They presented their computer-aided designs to their class.

Across all Units, pupils are strengthening their creativity and problem-solving while gaining a clearer understanding of how thoughtful design shapes the world around them.



Staffing Updates

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mrs McDade, Hawks Class teacher, has welcomed a baby girl called Madeline. Congratulations and warmest wishes to the whole family. Hawks Class will be taught by Mr Rogers. Mr Rogers brings great enthusiasm to the role and will be a valuable addition to our school community.

We are also pleased to share that Mrs Johns and Miss Lamswood, two of our wonderful Teaching Assistants, have joined our Pastoral Team as Attendance and Pastoral Support Workers. You will often see them on the school drive welcoming our families. Our Pastoral Team is available to offer advice and support, signpost families to other services, and provide a friendly, discreet listening ear. If you would like to speak to a member of the team, please email pastoral@preston.torbay.sch.uk



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 the 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.

Daniel in Woodpeckers

Daniel received his Stage 1 Badge and certificate for swimming.

Well done, Daniel, what a great achievement.



Nathan, Year 5

Nathan has been progressing brilliantly in skiing. He regularly attends Torquay Ski Club, training on the dry slope. This winter he also had the chance to practise his skills on real snow in the Alps – an experience he thoroughly enjoyed.

Nathan is also very proud of his achievements in karate. Nathan has been training for four years and achieved his Blue Belt last month. Last year, he also attended the International Karate Championships in Bath, which was an exciting and memorable experience for him.

Well done Nathan for all your achievements!



Izzy, Year 5

Izzy went up an age category in December after her 10th birthday to become an under 12. Her first competition was on 1st February where amazingly she got 1st place and gained her last grade point to now become a starter. This now means Izzy can have a sparkly outfit and no more beginner wear leotards!

Well done, Izzy!



Muirin, Year 4

Muirin completed her Level 3 in swimming last week! She's worked incredibly hard to improve her skills and become a stronger swimmer. We are very proud of how far she has come!

Fantastic, well done Muirin!



Holly, Year 3

Holly passed her grade 3 swimming with flying colours last weekend and is very close to completing her Grade 4 too! She's so proud of her achievement.

Holly has always loved swimming and isn't scared of learning new strokes, jumping in, collecting items off the bottom of the pool and she loves swimming underwater....in fact, I think she enjoys swimming under water more than on top of it! Fantastic Holly, well done!



Stanley, Year 3

Stanley has been working incredibly hard on his swimming and has been awarded his 10-metre badge.

Well done, Stanley!





Notice Board

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.

Attendance Ladder



World Book Day!

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 6th March**. We will be asking the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Please don't feel you have to spend money buying expensive costumes, you can use clothes, onesies, or fancy dress you may already have at home.

Preston Primary School



YOU DON'T NEED TO DONATE TO TAKE

Pre-loved school uniform available in the Pastoral office every Friday 3-3:15pm.

Just pop in or e mail Lisa Shepherd: lshepherd@preston.torbay.sch.uk to arrange an alternative time.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVITY CAMPS

FULLY FUNDED



SPORTS, CRAFTS & GAMES
LUNCH INCLUDED

SOUTH DEVON SPORTS CENTRE
TQ4 7TP

16TH - 19TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 2PM



5-12 YEARS



BOOK TODAY AT
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/5N7ZV3JJ](https://tinyurl.com/5N7ZV3JJ)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

**FOR THOSE ON BENEFIT
RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Local Art Event

Torre Abbey will be running free family art days in February – please click the link for further details:

<https://tinyurl.com/torre-abbey-art>

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: [Changing or moving schools - Torbay Council](#)



Diary Dates

Key dates for Spring 2. All dates are also on the school calendar on our website.

February	
Monday 23 rd February	Children return to school
Friday 27 th February	South Devon College Engineering Enrichment (Unit 4)
Friday 27 th February	Football match with Eden Park
March	
Monday 2 nd March	Teamwork assembly for the children by Reverend Nathan Kiyaga
Monday 2 nd March	Year 5/6 Boys Football Match
Tuesday 3 rd & Thursday 5 th March	Parent Meetings in the Hall 3:30–6:30pm
Wednesday 4 th March	South Devon College Film Workshop (Unit 4)
Wednesday 4 th March	Broadsands House Charity Event
Thursday 5 th March	Devon Schools Girls Football Tournament
Friday 6 th March	World Book Day celebrations in school
Friday 6 th March	Year 5/6 Girls Football - Doel Cup
Monday 9 th March	Unit 2 Trip to Torquay Museum
Monday 9 th March	Year 5/6 Girls Football Match
Tuesday 10 th March	SEND Sports Session & Sports Ambassador Training
Wednesday 11 th March	School Nurse Drop In 1:30–3pm
Thursday 12 th March	FOPPS Mother's Day Shop
Friday 13 th March	Cricket Development Day
Friday 13 th March	Football match with Eden Park
Friday 13 th March	Choir at Paignton Festival
Monday 16 th March	Year 3/4 Football Match
Monday 16 th March	Bee Netball Tournament



Diary Dates

Key dates for Spring 2. All dates are also on the school calendar on our website.

March	
Friday 20 th March	Cricket Development Day
Friday 20 th March	World Down Syndrome Day & Comic Relief
w/c 23 rd March	Last week of Activity Clubs
Friday 27 th March	Football Match with Eden Park
Friday 27 th March	Unit 3 Trip to Exeter Museum
Monday 30 th March	Easter Assembly for the children with Reverend Nathan Kiyaga
Monday 30 th March	Foundation Stage (Unit 1) Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
Tuesday 31 st March	Tempest Class Group Photos
Tuesday 31 st March	Unit 3 Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
April	
Wednesday 1 st April	Foundation Stage Theatre Trip
Wednesday 1 st April	Unit 4 Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
Thursday 2 nd April	World Autism Awareness Day
Thursday 2 nd April	SEND Swimming Festival
Thursday 2 nd April	Nest (Barn Owls and Woodpeckers) Rock Up & Read at 2:30pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Unit 2 Rock Up & Read at 2:50pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of Spring Term
3rd-19th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 20 th April	Children return to school – Summer Term