



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Monday 9th March 2026



Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Learning Enquiry – Once Upon a Time...

This half term we will be discovering the wonderful world of stories. We will be answering and exploring the following:

- 1. Know some traditional tales and be able to retell the stories through mapping and performance.**
- 2. Understand the role of authors and illustrators.**
- 3. Understand the structure of a story and common principal characters. Develop confidence in storytelling.**
- 4. What are fiction and non-fiction books?**

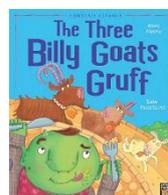
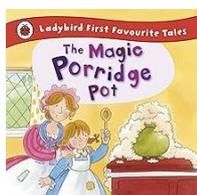
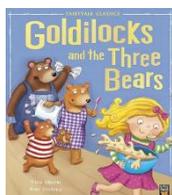
This week we talked about some of our favourite stories. We discussed why we liked them and our favourite characters. It was wonderful to hear so many children talking passionately about books.



We then explored a book blanket of traditional tales. We explained that a traditional tale, often known as a folk tale or fairy tale, is a story that has been passed down through generations, typically by word of mouth. These stories have been adapted and retold in various forms over the years, but their core elements remain the same. Examples of traditional tales include "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", "Jack and the Beanstalk", and "The Three Little Pigs". We had these and many more traditional tales on our book blanket.

Some of the children knew that the phrase "once upon a time" is a traditional way to begin stories/fairy tales. We will be using this in our own storytelling.

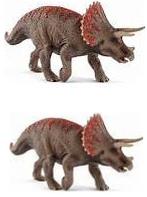
Over the next few weeks, we will be reading and retelling many traditional tales.



Teamwork



Our School Value for this half term is 'Teamwork'. We learn our school values through dinosaurs, and we would like to introduce you to 'Teamatops'.



We are Teamatops. We are very good at working with each other. We always listen to our friends' ideas and enjoy working out how to solve problems together. We are great at sharing our ideas and know that we can achieve more by working as a team.

We explored and defined Teamwork. Teamwork is working with others to achieve a common goal. A team can be two or more people working together. We decided that to work as a good team, you need to listen, take turns, share, be respectful, show perseverance, and encourage one another.

We identified many examples of how the children have already demonstrated great Teamwork in school.

The children engaged in a rotation of activities to further explore the skills of Teamwork.

- Activity 1 - We read the story of 'The Enormous Turnip' and talked about how they used teamwork. Then we used drama to act out the play. We decided that sometimes it is much easier to work as a team to get things done.
- Activity 2 - We read the story 'That Fruit is mine!' by Anuska Allepuz. We then had to work as a team to complete a challenge. The group held hands and we had to try to get a hula hoop around the circle without letting go of hands or breaking the circle. We had to work as a team and support each other to help the hoop move around the entire circle.
- Activity 3 - We had to work in teams to get from one side of the playground to the other by only standing on the yellow dots. We were not allowed to stand on the floor so we had to collaborate and pass the spare yellow dot to the other team members so that our group could move forward. We talked about how everyone has a role when working as a team. You need to communicate effectively to share ideas and take turns. There was then an extra challenge as the teams had to collect bean bags as they crossed the playground.

The children enjoyed working together, we are very proud of them.

Whilst learning about Teamwork we will be linking to the British Value of 'Mutual Respect'. This is encouraging respect for others, regardless of differences, and understanding the importance of treating everyone with kindness and consideration. This is important when working as a team.

We will continue to provide opportunities for the children to demonstrate Teamwork. We always talk to the children about how they can use their School Values in school and at home. **Home Learning** - Please send us images on Seesaw of your child using teamwork at home.



Ambulance Service Visit – Foundation Stage

Linking to our School Aim of 'Ready for Work', Puffins and Penguins were excited to welcome a visit from the South Western Ambulance Service.

John, a paramedic, spoke to the children about his important role and how he uses our School Values every day in his job. He explained that teamwork is essential in his job, as paramedics work closely with other emergency services and hospital staff to make sure patients receive the best possible care. He also spoke about the importance of showing respect - listening carefully to patients and speaking kindly. The children were fascinated to learn about the equipment he uses, including how patients are sometimes lifted carefully onto a spinal board and how bandages are applied. They even had the opportunity to try some of these skills for themselves!

John also told the children about his responsibility to make sure the ambulance is fully prepared and ready at the start of every day. The children were thrilled to climb aboard the ambulance where they helped carry out some essential checks and explored the equipment inside. They also learned the importance of dialling 999 in an emergency to ask for an ambulance. A big thank you to Mr Carrieries for such a fun, engaging, and informative visit.



Chinese New Year

We have been finding out about Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year. People in communities around the world celebrate Chinese New Year according to the lunar calendar. This year is the year of the Horse.

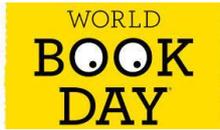
We recapped our learning from Autumn Term when we talked about celebrations. We compared the Lunar New Year to the other celebrations we had explored in the past (Bonfire Night, Diwali, Christmas) and talked about the similarities and differences. The children recognised that many celebrations are enjoyed with family and friends. Homes are decorated, special food is shared, and sometimes people enjoy fireworks.

We talked about the special traditions that take place during Chinese New Year, such as gathering with family, decorating homes with lanterns, and the giving of red envelopes with money inside. The dragon dance is often performed during Chinese New Year.

The children enjoyed tasting noodles and prawn crackers. They thought it was delicious! They also enjoyed performing their very own dragon dance.



World Book Day



The children had lots of fun celebrating World Book Day. This annual event is a wonderful way to promote reading, books, authors, and illustrators. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum, and developing a love of books and reading inspires children to read for pleasure.

It was lovely to see the children dressed up as book characters. They all looked wonderful! A big 'thank you' to parents and carers for your help in providing the costumes.

They spent the day sharing their favourite books with one another and took part in various craft activities. During a whole school assembly children were treated to stories read aloud by different teachers. The children also met for an hour in their 'school houses' where they could mix with children of different ages and share their book interests. At the end of the day the children listened to some masked reader videos to try and work out which teachers were hiding behind the mask. It was a fun day for all.

Reading is central to our curriculum, and fostering a love of books and reading encourages children to read for pleasure. World Book Day is a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to collaborate and share their love of reading.



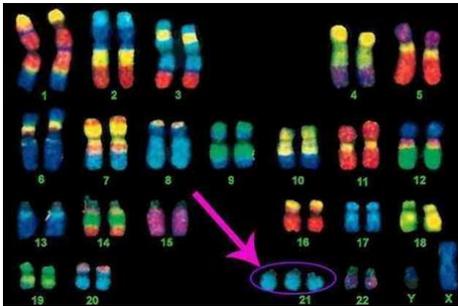
Your child will have received an electronic £1 book token – sent to you via e-mail. This can be spent in book shops or can be exchanged at Torquay Library for a special £1 World Book Day Book.

World Down Syndrome Day



On 20th March, we are celebrating World Down Syndrome Day. People with Down Syndrome have an extra chromosome (they have 3 copies of chromosome 21)

We will be demonstrating our support for World Down Syndrome Day by wearing lots of colourful and odd socks. Why socks? Some say that chromosomes look a little bit like pairs of socks. Sometimes people have an extra 'sock' or chromosome and a person with Down syndrome has an extra copy of chromosome 21.



Children can come to school on Friday 21st March wearing colourful/odd socks. Thank you for your support.



Comic Relief – Friday 20th March

On the same day we will be raising money for Comic Relief. Children can come to school wearing a red nose. Closer to the time we will share a link for you to donate to the charity.



Rock Up and Read



On **Monday 30th March at 2.50pm** we would like to invite you to a 'Rock Up and Read' session in the classroom. This will be an opportunity for you to come into school to share the love of reading with your child. There will be lots of books available for you to read with your child. The children really enjoy reading for pleasure and they would be delighted to share the experience with you as well.

The adult collecting your child that day will be able to come into school at 2.50pm (via the playground) to share some stories and then you will be able to take the children home at 3.15pm.

If you are unable to attend the session, please do not worry. Your child will still be able to enjoy reading for pleasure with their friends and the teachers in the class.

If you have any queries, please come and ask the class teacher.



Home Learning

- Enjoy the story 'Dear Zoo' on Seesaw read by Mrs Bastin.
- Check your child's book bag and Seesaw for phonics activities and reading to complete at home.
- Send us images on Seesaw of your child demonstrating teamwork at home.

Important Dates

- Wednesday 11th March – School Nurse drop in session – no booking necessary
- Thursday 12th March - Mother's Day Shop – children can bring up to £2 to spend
- Friday 20th March – Celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and Comic Relief
- Monday 30th March – Rock Up and Read at 2.50pm
- Tuesday 31st March – Tempest Class Photos
- Wednesday 1st April – Trip to Theatre Royal Plymouth
- Thursday 2nd April – Last day of term

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

From Mrs Bastin, Mrs Blatchford and the Foundation Stage Team