



# Half-Termly Newsletter

## Issue 4: April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we step into the brighter days of Spring, there is a renewed sense of energy and optimism across the school. This change in season often brings with it a fresh enthusiasm for learning, and it has been wonderful to see this reflected in classrooms and around the school.

This term has been filled with many notable highlights. Our pupils have demonstrated excellent commitment to their learning, with particularly strong engagement in enquiry subjects like Art, History, and Music. We have also celebrated several achievements, both academic and extracurricular, which continue to make us proud as a school community.

As another busy term comes to a close and with much being achieved once again, I would like to thank you all for the support you give to the children. Working together for the good of our children, is what makes our school the special place it is. It is a true joy and privilege to be the Headteacher of this wonderful school. Our children – and the smiles and happiness they share – are what inspire us every day, and we are proud of their commitment to our School Values and their personal growth.

Have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Warmest wishes  
Mrs Oliver

Love to  
Learn

## Strong Partnership with South Devon College

Ready  
for  
Work

At Preston, one of our key School Aims – embedded throughout our curriculum – is to prepare children for the future workplace and ensure they are 'Ready for Work'. We place great importance on raising pupils' aspirations and helping them develop an understanding of the wide range of career opportunities available to them. We are extremely grateful for our strong partnership with South Devon College, which provides all children in Years 5 and 6 with the opportunity to visit the college and take part in a variety of engaging workshops. This is a brilliant example of one of our 30 Ways to Connect experiences, take a 'Trip to a University or College'. Below are two workshops which groups of children have attended this half term:

**Green Screen and filming** – children experienced a real film set and learned how the 'movie magic' happens. They re-enacted some key scenes from Harry Potter, including invisibility cloaks and flying with dragons! Everyone was so impressed with the children's Teamwork and Creativity, and we are sure to have inspired future careers in the film industry.

**Engineering experience** – children explored structures, learning how design choices affect strength and stability. They put their problem-solving skills to the test by programming robots and investigated how everyday structures and products are designed and manufactured. We were proud of the Determination, Teamwork, and Creativity the children demonstrated when designing their own bridges and programming their robots.

22 Trip to a University  
or College



# Celebrating Our Learning

Ready  
for  
Work

Love to  
Learn

## Enriching Our Curriculum

**World Book Day** - It was fantastic to see everyone dressed up as their favourite book characters during World Book Day. We enjoyed listening to stories together, and the Starlings took part in the BBC Live Lesson for World Book Day! Throughout the day, the children took part in lots of reading and book-themed activities. In the afternoon, we spent time in our house groups sharing books and helping one another with craft activities. Please see the latest Reading Newsletter for more information and photos.

**Preston School Choir** - Our amazing choir sang their hearts out at the Torbay Music Festival at Central Church. Competing against other local school choirs, they impressed everyone and were awarded first place with Honours, achieving an outstanding score of 89 and taking home the cup! This is another great example of our 30 Ways to Connect experience of 'Represent our school'.

**Unit 2** visited Torquay Museum to discover more about the incredible life of Percy Fawcett, The children were fascinated to learn about his many achievements and the important role he played as a historical figure. A particular highlight was learning how to make a traditional explorer's compass. This activity brought history to life and showcased a perfect example of the School Aim, 'Love to Learn'.

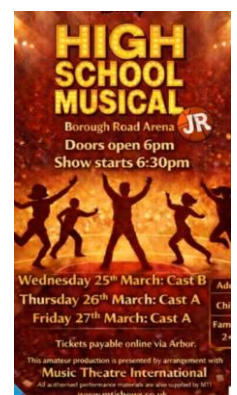
**Unit 3 visited the RAMM in Exeter** - the children explored a range of fascinating exhibits and artefacts linked to the question, How did the Roman's change Britain? They searched for real historical evidence showing how the Romans influenced life in Britain - from buildings and roads to trade, technology, and everyday objects. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated a Love of Learning, showing curiosity, enthusiasm, and a real passion for discovering new ideas as they explored the museum.

Three of our Units have had the wonderful opportunity of attending live performances, linking to our 30 Ways to Connect experience of 'See a live show'. Here is what they have been to see...

**Unit 2** - children enjoyed an inspirational and entertaining afternoon with Bay Brass last week. The children enjoyed a live performance and loved having a go at playing the brass instruments themselves!

**Unit 4** were invited to Paignton Academy to watch their Spring Production of 'High School Musical Jr.' It is important to motivate and inspire our children through links with our local secondary schools

**Foundation Stage** - Yesterday was a very special day for the children in Foundation. They went on their first school trip to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth and watched a live performance of The Enormous Turnip. The children were on the edge of their seats as they watched the actors and puppetry. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the adults were very proud of the children for demonstrating their School Values.



Be a  
Good  
Citizen

This half term has been a truly exciting one for sport at our school. Our commitment to developing a strong and inclusive competitive sports programme is clearly paying off, with pupils across the school embracing opportunities to participate, improve, and excel. Below highlights the growing impact of sport within our school community. These sporting events link directly to our 30 ways to Connect – number 12: Represent the school.

## Cricket Development Day

The whole school recently had the exciting opportunity to practise and develop new cricket skills. Hollie Perkin, a South Devon club and community cricket coach, spent time with each class, helping to build the children’s knowledge and confidence in the sport. For many children, this was their first experience of cricket, making it a particularly special event. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a variety of games and had the chance to bat, bowl, and field. Throughout the sessions, the children showed a fantastic love of learning and great determination as they developed their skills.



## Netball Friendly and Netball Festivals

Our Years 5/6 netball team took to the court recently against some very experienced opposition, and they rose to the challenge with determination and heart. Despite facing tough competition, the team demonstrated impressive resilience, supporting one another through every pass, intercept, and goal attempt. Their teamwork shone throughout the tournament, and they should be incredibly proud of the way they represented the school. Thank you to Mrs Chadwick for coaching and inspiring the team.



A group of our Year 3 /4 children had a fantastic time attending the recent Bee Netball Skills Festival. 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. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and willingness to challenge themselves.

## Football League at Paignton Academy

The Year 3/4 mixed football team continued their league journey with two outstanding performances recently, securing back-to-back wins. They opened with a confident 4-1 victory followed by an impressive 4-0 win. Each time the team plays they learn more about one another. This growing understanding strengthens their play and reflects our School Aim of ‘Love to Learn’ both on and off the pitch.



## Football Friendlies against Eden Park

This half term we have hosted three friendly football matches against Eden Park, another school in our Trust. A team of our Year 5/6 boys played with great pride and determination and won 3-2. A team of enthusiastic Year 3/4 boys delivered a performance to be proud of and celebrated two fantastic goals. Last week a team of our Year 5/6 girls played with wonderful high energy and won an impressive 2-0.

## Exciting Times for Preston Girls Football Teams

Recently our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 girls football teams travelled to the Devon FA to take part in the Devon Schools Competition. Both teams represented the school brilliantly and showed great teamwork, determination and resilience.



## Girls Year 5 Rugby Festival at Paignton Rugby Club

The Year 5 girls recently took part in a rugby festival held at Paignton Rugby Club. They were joined by a number of local schools to learn new skills and play matches. The festival was supported by students from Cuthbert Mayne School who played an important role in facilitating activities and supporting participants throughout the day. The girls demonstrated excellent levels of enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship applying their developing skills with increasing confidence.



# Our Enquiry Subjects

Ready  
for  
Work

Love to  
Learn

## Art

This half term, our children have been exploring the wonderfully creative world of **printing**; each year group diving into a different technique that builds skills, confidence, and imagination. Across the school, pupils have been encouraged to *Be Ready, Be Safe, and Be Kind* as they experiment, take creative risks, and support one another in the art studio. Many of our School Values – Creativity, Determination, Teamwork, Independence, Respect, and Responsibility – shine naturally through this hands-on learning.

### Unit 1 Children – Printing with Real-Life Objects

Our youngest learners have been asking, “How can I create a print using objects?” Using everyday items – from leaves to toy wheels—they discovered how shapes, textures, and patterns can be transferred onto paper. This playful exploration nurtures creativity and independence, while also encouraging children to *Be Ready* to try new ideas and *Be Kind* when sharing materials with friends.

### Unit 2 Children – Relief Printing

Children in Years 1 and 2 have taken their first steps into more structured printmaking by exploring *relief printing*. The children were inspired by the Inuit indigenous artist **Sarah Joe Qinuajua**. They learned how raised surfaces can create bold, striking images. This process requires responsibility in using tools safely and determination as they refine their designs. Working together to test and improve their prints has helped them practise *Teamwork* and *Be Safe* in the art room.

### Unit 3 Children – Mono Printing

In Years 3 and 4, pupils have been investigating the question, “How can I create a mono print?” This expressive technique allows for unique, one-of-a-kind prints. The children learned about the inspiring printing artist John Piper. Children have shown great creativity and respect for each other’s ideas as they experiment with mark-making. Mono printing encourages pupils to *Be Ready* to embrace unexpected results and learn from them.

### Unit 4 Children – Block Printing and Repeating Patterns

Our oldest pupils have taken on the challenge of designing and carving their own blocks to create repeating patterns inspired by the renowned printing artist William Morris. This unit demands patience, precision, and determination, as well as independence in planning and refining their designs. Pupils have demonstrated *Be Safe* through careful tool use and *Be Kind* by supporting classmates during the carving process. The final prints show impressive creativity and a strong sense of personal style. Across the school, printing has offered children the chance to explore artistic techniques while living out our School Values in meaningful, practical ways. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing confidence as young artists.



Be a  
Good  
Citizen

# Our Enquiry Subjects

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## Music

Across our music curriculum this half term, pupils have shown wonderful determination, embracing new challenges with confidence and enthusiasm. They have worked with great teamwork, supporting one another during performances and group musical activities. Most importantly, they have demonstrated our School Aim 'Love to Learn', approaching each lesson with curiosity, creativity, and joy.

### Unit 1

Unit 1 have been listening and responding to a variety of musical styles and learning to sing along with nursery rhymes and action songs. They have explored long and short sounds and are beginning to recognise these features when listening carefully to music.

### Unit 2

Unit 2 have been exploring the enquiry question "What is an Orchestra?" They have enjoyed playing and singing together as an ensemble, developing their sense of collective music-making. They have also worked on identifying long and short sounds within rhythms and comparing the differences between them.

### Unit 3

Unit 3 have been discovering how music can influence mood and feelings. They have explored how special musical effects can make song lyrics more meaningful and how the sounds we hear can communicate specific emotions. They have been experimenting with singing at different tempos - fast and slow - and noticing the musical effects this creates.

### Unit 4

Unit 4 have explored the concept of musical dynamics and how changes in volume affect the character of music. They have learned to adjust dynamics to make performances more interesting and expressive. They have also been using new vocabulary such as *crescendo* and *decrescendo* to describe sounds that gradually get louder or quieter.

It has been a joy to see each unit grow in confidence and musical understanding this term. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to persevere with new skills reflect the very best of our school values. We look forward to continuing this musical journey together as they deepen their appreciation and love for learning through music.



Be a  
Good  
Citizen

## Be A Good Citizen - Supporting Charities



**Red Nose Day** - on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March the whole school enjoyed supporting both Comic Relief and World Down Syndrome Day. Thank you to our children for wearing red noses and to our families who have donated to Comic Relief through our Just Giving Page. We have raised an incredible £178.

**World Autism Awareness Day** - today the children celebrated World Autism Awareness Day. They had a class assembly to celebrate differences which supports our inclusive school culture.

**Livermead House Cuddly Toy Sale** - Livermead House Captains organised a fantastic pre-loved cuddly toy sale in support of Animals in Distress and proudly raised over £65! Thank you to all the families who generously donated such a brilliant selection of soft toys. This links directly to our 30 Ways to Connect - number 5: Raise Money for a Charity.

# Our Enquiry Subjects

Ready  
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## History

This half term, the children have enjoyed exploring three exciting history enquiries across school. They've been learning how to think like real historians – asking questions, looking at evidence, and comparing life in different times and places, all whilst linking to their previous learning.

### **Unit 2 – Why did Percy Fawcett go to South America?**

Children learned about the explorer Percy Fawcett and his adventures in the Amazon rainforest. They explored what motivated him and how Historians use clues to understand people from the past. Children also had the opportunity to explore the collection of artefacts on display at Torquay Museum.

### **Unit 3 – How did the Romans change Britain?**

In this enquiry, pupils discovered how the Romans influenced life in Britain. They looked at artefacts and evidence showing changes in buildings, roads, language, and daily life. Children explored the collection of Roman artefacts found in Britain that are on display at the museum, as well as the vast collection from other time periods that are on display.

### **Unit 4 – How does the history of Baghdad compare to the history of London?**

Children compared two important world cities, learning about Baghdad's Golden Age and how life and learning there differed from life in London at the same time.

Throughout these enquiries, the children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm, really demonstrating our School Aim, Love to Learn. We're very proud of how confidently they've been developing their historical knowledge and skills.



### **Mothers Day Shop**

Thank you to FOPPS for organising another successful Mother's Day Shop. The children absolutely loved choosing their gifts, showing the School Value of Independence.

### **Easter Eggs**

Thank you to FOPPS for purchasing Easter eggs for every child in the school. These will be sent home today.

**FOPPS**  
Friends of Preston Primary School





## 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](mailto: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.

### Luke, Year 2

Luke completed his first Duathlon recently. This was a 625m run, a 1500m bike ride, and then a 200m sprint.

Luke's parents were so proud of his determination, especially with the weather conditions, and he came 4<sup>th</sup> overall.



### Errin, Year 4, and Emmett, Year 2

Well done to Errin and Emmett. Both performed a solo piano piece in the local Torbay Festival. They each separately completed a solo music performance in front of an audience and invigilators, and were both awarded 'commended' scoring. This was a great achievement, demonstrating their commitment to practice piano and to perform in front of others.



### Penny, Year 4, and Alex, Year 5

Penny and Alex recently came 3<sup>rd</sup> with their friends, in the 14 and under Cabaret Section of the Torbay Dance Festival. The girls all did very well in a section with a lot of older more experienced dancers. Well done, girls!



Alex also began swimming for Paignton Swimming Club in November, recently had her first swimming gala and achieved a 2<sup>nd</sup> and two 3<sup>rd</sup> places in the races she competed in.



### Penny, Year 2

Penny attends the Pauline Quirk Academy, and she recently took part in the British Festival of Performing Arts show at the Princess Theatre. Her group performed 'I see Fire' from the Hobbit in the evening and they took part in two West - End led workshops in the day. This was the first time that Penny had been on stage; she did brilliantly and had a great time! Amazing achievement, Penny!



### Lexie, Year 1, and Harlie, Year 4

Harlie competed in the first ever Junior Hyrox (Youngstars) to be held in England. The competition consists of a combination of running interspersed with different functional workout stations, such as sled pushes, lunges, rowing, and more! Harlie has trained for the event for months and really pushed herself both physically and mentally, and completed the course in 15 minutes 24 seconds. An amazing achievement, Harlie!

Well done to Lexie for working really hard in swimming and moving up to Stage 4. Lexie's parents are super proud.



### Lily, Year 2

Special mention to Lily for showing our School Value of Responsibility. When walking to school one morning she saw a lot of rubbish on the streets. After school, she asked her parents if she could go litter picking and managed to collect a huge bag of rubbish!

Lily has also demonstrated our School Aim of 'Love to Learn' - Lily had a cookery book as a Christmas gift and since then has been cooking and baking regularly, including strawberry and cream meringues, homemade burgers, and apple crumble sundae. She has been using different knives safely, as well as the hob and the oven. Well done, Lily!





# Diary Dates

Key dates for Summer 1. All dates are also on the school calendar on our website.

April	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Connect Games Year 5/6 Netball
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Goodrington House Charity Event
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Starlings Sports Festival
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Choir perform at the Torbay Music Festival Gala
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> –Weds 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Residential
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Creativity assembly by Reverend Nathan from St Paul's
w/c Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Activity Clubs start
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5/6 Boys Football Paignton League
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Reading Ambassadors trip to local nurseries
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Little Owls Sports Festival
May	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Mega Rugby Festival
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Eagles Sports Festival
w/c Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5/6 Girls Football Paignton League
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Unit 4 South Devon College Workshop
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 small group Swimming Gala
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Fire Service Visit for Years 2 and 5
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3/4 Football Paignton League
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Unit 3 Celebration of Learning at 2:45pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Broadsands House Charity Event
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Unit 2 Celebration of Learning 2.45pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 5/6 Girls Countdown Cricket Event
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Unit 4 Celebration of Learning at 2.45pm



# Diary Dates

All dates are also on the school calendar on our website [Calendar at Preston Primary School](#)

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 3/4 Boys Doel Cup Football Tournament
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Disco & Non-Uniform Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Last day of Half Term
<b>June</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children return to school (Summer 2)



# 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



## PRESTON'S HELPFUL HINTS FOR BEING ON TIME

### WHY IS BEING ON TIME FOR SCHOOL IMPORTANT?

Being on time means children can feel settled for their day. They get to experience their teacher's meet and greet which assists a smooth transition into school.



### LAY OUT CLOTHES

Lay out or hang up school uniform the night before. You can also make sure that socks/ tights and underwear are ready so that it makes getting dressed easier.



### PACK YOUR BAG

Packing the school bag the night before helps to keep you organised. Ensure all books, home learning, and essential items are packed and ready to go.

### CHECKLIST

A visual checklist can help children follow the morning routine, create independence, and have a positive, organised start to the day. Ask our Attendance Team if you would like one created for your family.



### FIXED WAKE UP TIME

Setting a consistent wake up time helps to regulate a child's body clock and avoids morning issues. Just try not to hit that snooze button zzz!



### HOW DOES ARRIVING ON TIME HELP?

Arriving late means missing out on critical parts of learning. Some children can often feel self-conscious about entering their classroom late.

Arriving on time to school can help with routines and focus, increasing chances of success and confidence.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Being 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year!

Being 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the school year!



### LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Avoiding or limiting distractions like screen time and the TV during the morning routine can help keep focus on getting ready.

Remember: gates open at 8:35 am and lessons start at 8:45 am

**SWISCo** Call 01803 207678 for information

Recruiting local heroes now!

Help Torbay's school children cross safely



## Preston Primary School

# Uniform swap shop

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](mailto:lshepherd@preston.torbay.sch.uk) to arrange an alternative time.

## 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](#)



# Notice Board Easter Events

COME AND JOIN OUR

# Easter EGG HUNT

10AM - MIDDAY

SAT 4TH APRIL

**Scouts**  
14th Torbay Scout Group

CHRIST CHURCH PAIGNTON AND ST PAUL PRESTON  
PROCLAIMING CHRIST

Soft Archery, Face Painting, Crafts, Hook a Duck,  
Photo Booth, Easter Egg Trail & Family Fun for All!

As part of the National Year of Reading, join our Book Swap.

Take a book on the day to enjoy over Easter!

SCAN ME!

**\*FREE ADMISSION\***  
**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, PRESTON, PAIGNTON, TQ3 2DH





# Notice Board Easter Events

## Saints Southwest Soccer Schools at Preston



Saints Southwest's Soccer Schools offer a fantastic way for children aged 5-11 to spend their holidays: active, fun, and full of learning.

### What to Expect

**Full-day, structured programmes:** Sessions typically run from **10:00am to 3:00pm**, with an **early drop-off** available from **9:00am** in every holiday period.

**Experienced, FA-qualified coaches** leading the sessions, with good coach-to-child ratios and a focus on both skill and fun.

**Action-packed days:** Group specific drills, Ball Mastery, 1v1/2v2s & Tournaments. All designed to improve ability, confidence, and love of the game.

### Tailored for Age & Experience

To make sure each child gets the right balance of challenge and enjoyment, the programmes are split into two main age groups.

### Infant (5 - 7 Years) & Junior (8-11 Years)

Splitting these age groups allows the children to benefit from a friendly, progressive, safe and fun atmosphere for the children to develop and enjoy time with their peers.

## Preston Primary School - Soccer School (5-11 Years) | Pebble

**EASTER** \*\*FULLY FUNDED

**ACTIVITY CAMPS**

**WEEK 1**

ACORN SPORTS CENTRE

7TH - 10TH APRIL 2026

12PM - 4PM

**WEEK 2**

SOUTH DEVON COLLEGE

13TH - 16TH APRIL 2026

10AM - 2PM

SPORTS, CRAFTS & GAMES

LUNCH INCLUDED

BOOK TODAY! HEAD TO [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3U7NUS48](https://tinyurl.com/3U7NUS48) OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

\*\*FOR THOSE ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

OLDWAY GARDENS VOLUNTEER GROUP

**DO CHICKENS MAKE YOU LAUGH?**

THEY DO AT OLDWAY!

Join us for an Easter trail, everyday from

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**10am - 4pm**  
(Last trail sheet at 3:15pm)

Wellies Recommended!

£1 per trail sheet!

Oldway Gardens, Oldway Road, Paignton TQ3 2TD

Limited Parking!

Park in side roads if possible!

FREE ALL WELCOME

**Easter Event**

Live music FREE BBQ Games Craft activities BOUNCY CASTLE

**SATURDAY 4TH APRIL**

**1-3PM**

**PRESTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
62 OLD TORQUAY RD, PAIGNTON TQ3 2RB