



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter



Monday 27th April 2026

Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Collaboration



Communication



Creativity



Critical Thinking



Creativity

We have introduced the School Value of 'Creativity'. Creativity is not solely linked to artistic skills. Creativity is also about being able to look at a problem, wonder, explore, and develop solutions. Children need plenty of opportunities for creative play and creative thinking. Children need opportunities to try new ideas and come up with new ways of thinking and problem-solving. Our pupils need to feel a sense of freedom in their learning to take risks and have some choice in how they go about demonstrating their understanding. Creative activities help acknowledge and celebrate children's uniqueness and diversity, as well as offer excellent opportunities to be expressive.

In Foundation Stage, we learn our school values through dinosaurs. This is Creatoraptor:

I am Creatoraptor. I am very good at making links and using things I already know to help me learn new things. I enjoy challenges and I am great at thinking of ways to solve problems. I can think about what might happen and I like to test my ideas. If things don't work at first I keep on trying new ideas until I reach my goal.



The children took part in a carousel of activities to help them learn about Creativity. One of the challenges was to help an animal cross a river. The children were able to be creative and use different resources and plan different methods of crossing the river. Some of the creative ideas included a hot air balloon, a rocket, and a speed boat. Other challenges included making an obstacle course and being creative in the role play area.





Learning Enquiry – ‘Let’s investigate ...’

This half term we start our new learning enquiry ‘Let’s investigate...’

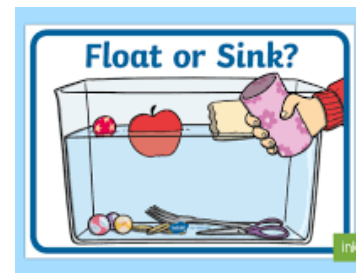
Questions that we will be considering during this topic are:

- 1. How can we look after the world around us? Develop an understanding of responsibilities.**
- 2. What do plants need to grow? Why do we need plants? Develop a scientific understanding of plant-life and growing.**
- 3. Which foods can we grow? Develop an understanding of growth and a balanced diet.**

We want to encourage enquiring minds, supporting children to find out about the world around them and become more environmentally responsible. We talked about what investigate means and compiled a list of questions they had about the world around them.

The children wondered how they could find out more about the world around them. We decided they could use non-fiction books, videos, the internet, objects, or talk to different people.

Last week we investigated ‘floating’ and ‘sinking’. The children tested a variety of objects and began to notice that items with common features behaved in the same way, for example, all of the wooden items floated, and all of the metal items sunk. We used this knowledge to predict what other items would do when placed in the water.



The children continued this curiosity in the Woodland Camp. We talked about how we can look after the world around us. The children impressed us with their ideas. They said we need to look after the trees and plants for the animals and bugs. They were also keen to make sure people do not leave rubbish on the floor because this can harm the animals and the world around us. The children took pictures of plants and trees in the Woodland Camp and noticed that new leaves and buds were growing. They also showed great responsibility by collecting any rubbish found in the Woodland Camp (as we are very responsible individuals, our Woodland Camp is very clean and tidy, so we used boxes from our craft table!). The children showed great responsibility, and it was lovely to hear them talking passionately about their world.



It is important for children have opportunities to talk and discuss their knowledge and understanding. During each learning enquiry we introduce new vocabulary and use a variety of exciting books to inspire learning.

In Puffins and Penguins we value talk and feel it is important for children to have opportunities to talk. We have been using talk strategies to support communication. We explicitly teach children about being a good listener and children practise back-and-forth exchanges in conversations. Below are the Communication and Language Early Learning Goals (these are the expectations for the end of Foundation).

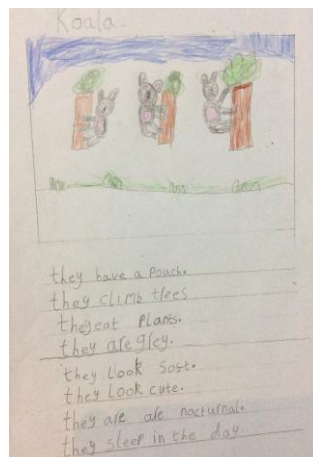
Communication and Language
Listening, Attention and Understanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.• Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.• Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.
Speaking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.• Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.• Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

Children have daily opportunities in school to practise these goals. Please continue to encourage your child to talk to you about their learning in school (you can use the newsletters and Seesaw to aid your conversations). Also continue to talk about their interests outside of school as well.

Home Learning – Fact File Presentation

We have a home learning challenge for the children. We would like them to choose an animal to research at home and create a very small one-page fact file. They need to find at least 3 facts about the animal to tell the rest of the class. It could include where in the world the animal lives (we could locate this on our world map), what it eats, or any other interesting facts. They need to present their facts on a piece of paper. You can help your child write the words or scribe for them but please encourage them to be independent where possible. They also need to draw or print a picture of their animal as well. Or if you have another idea on how to present the information you can be as creative as you like! Please help your child to learn these facts so they can present them to the rest of the class.

Please bring them to school anytime between now and the end of half term, 22nd May, so we can begin to share them with the class. Thank you for your support. We look forward to hearing all the amazing facts.



House Point Certificates

This half term children will be coming home with house point certificates. They have been tallying their School Value stickers and as they reach 10 stickers they will receive a certificate in celebration assembly.



Keep up the great work Puffins and Penguins!

Afterschool Activity Clubs

After School Activity Clubs start this week. We still have a few spaces on the 'Play Pals' club on a Monday after school. In the club, children will get the chance to play games and share activities. It is a happy, supportive club where friendships can grow, confidence can build, and everyone gets a chance to shine while playing together.

If booking has closed on Arbor, you can contact the school office if you would like to book a space for the term.

All clubs will run 3.15pm – 4.15pm. Please collect your child from outside the main office – we will bring them out to you. Vehicles are not usually permitted on the drive at this time, so please try and park on the roads around school so that we can keep the children safe on the drive.



Learning Together Celebration Event

On Monday 18th May, we would like to invite you to join Puffins and Penguins for a learning together session. This will be an opportunity for you to visit the classroom, join the children, and take part in a variety of activities. The activities will be linked to the current learning enquiry 'Let's Investigate'. Children will be able to share their knowledge and learning with you. One of the activities will be planting a seed to grow over half term.

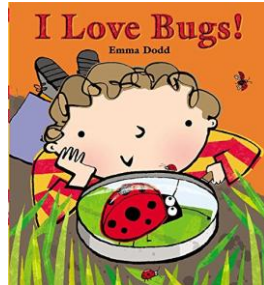
The adult collecting your child that day will be able to come into school at 2.40pm (via the playground) and will be able to go home at 3.15pm.

If you are unable to attend the session, please do not worry. Your child will still be able to enjoy activities with the teachers in class. Clubs will still be running after school that day.

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

Literacy – I Love Bugs!

We introduced and have been exploring the book, 'I Love Bugs!' This is a fun poem about a little boy who loves all different types of bugs. We noticed that the author didn't actually name each bug. Instead, she used some describing words to give us clues about the different bugs, so we had to use our detective skills to identify them. For example, 'I love springy, jumpy, leapy bugs and I love slimy, crawly, creepy bugs'. We had so much fun predicting which bug the author was describing.



The book has sparked some curiosity about bugs! The children have started to investigate bugs. They found out that minibeasts/bugs are **invertebrates** – they are creatures without backbones. So that includes insects, spiders, beetles, snails, worms, centipedes... the list goes on. Some even have exoskeletons!

You might like to watch these clips with your child to find out about minibeasts.

[What are minibeasts? - BBC Bitesize](#)

[What is a minibeast? | Primary Biology - Animal Types - YouTube](#)

This week we are looking forward to a bug hunt in the Woodland Camp.

Home Learning

- Enjoy the story 'Superworm' read by Mrs Bastin on Seesaw.
- Check your child's book bag and Seesaw for phonics and Read Write Inc activities and reading to complete at home.
- Explore sinking and floating at home, maybe in a washing up bowl or in the bath at wash time. Before you put it in the water, **predict** what you think will happen.
- Create a one-page animal fact file to present to your friends.

Important Dates

- **Monday 4th May** – Bank holiday
- **Monday 18th May** – Learning Together Celebration Event 2.40pm – 3.15pm
- **Tuesday 19th May** – Broadsands House Charity Event after school
- **Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May** – Half Term
- **Monday 1st June** – Non – Pupil Day – no school
- **Monday 2nd June** – Children return to school
- **Friday 3rd July** – FOPPS Summer Fayre. Starts at 3:15pm on the school field.
- **Monday 6th July** – Sports Day. (Tuesday 7th July – Reserve date). Foundation 2.15 – 3.15pm
- **Wednesday 8th July** – Foundation Celebration Show 2.30pm – more info to follow
- **Thursday 16th July** – Sports Festival Trip to Paignton Academy
- **Friday 17th July** – Last day of term

From Mrs Bastin, Mrs Blatchford and the Foundation Stage Team