



# Preston Primary

## Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Love to  
Learn

Be a Good  
Citizen

Ready for  
Work



### School Value - Determination

This half term we introduced the School Value of 'Determination' to the children. We learn our School Values through dinosaurs, this is Determodactyl.



I am Determodactyl. I love challenges and I must finish the things that I set out to achieve. I have to do my best in everything I do. I think about how to solve problems and stick at things even when they are really difficult. If things don't work at first, I keep on trying new ideas until I reach my goal.

The children took part in activities and they demonstrated great determination. In one activity they were in pairs and were challenged to get as many balls as possible in the bucket without using their hands. In another activity they had to balance a ball on a spoon whilst going around an obstacle course. These were quite a challenge, and it didn't always work. We talked about when things are tricky it is important not to give up and that we can change things to improve it next time. We shared a selection of stories that focused on determination, The Tortoise and the Hare, and Walter's Wonderful Web by Tim Hopgood.

Our curriculum promotes determination through the following steps:

- Children are confident to "have a go" and don't give up at the first hurdle.
- Children recognise when to seek out new approaches and solutions from others.
- Children can think of alternate routes, make links, tinker with ideas, and articulate their journey.
- Children are able to focus on a goal, anticipate and overcome setbacks, bring others along with them, and seek out the talents of others to complete the task.

The children had great fun and more importantly they all showed a lot of determination!



## Learning Enquiry - 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside'

Our new Learning Enquiry is called 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside'. We will support the children in gaining an understanding of our local area, including the advantages of living by the sea. We also want them to have an understanding of the wider world and where Torbay is in England and in the world. We will be using sources such as simple maps, globes, and aerial photographs to support our learning. We will be encouraging children to be curious learners and ask lots of questions. Adults will promote enquiry-based learning by modelling curiosity and being co-learners. Children will have opportunities to explore and be immersed in their interests. We will be exploring the following focus questions:

1. What are the features of our school and where is it located? Understand the use of maps and notice key features.
2. What are the features of our local area?
3. How can you be safe near the water?

To support this learning, Puffins and Penguins will visit Preston Sands beach on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July. You will receive communication closer to the time with more information.



We posed the following problem to the children ... Our class puppets, Silly Sally and Tricky Tiger, have not been outside of our school and they are afraid of getting lost. They would like us to make a map for them to find their way around the school grounds.

We then went on a walk to identify key places around the school e.g. playgrounds, field, woods, swimming pool, etc. The children made a list of the areas and also used an iPad to take photos of the different places.

We then created a large scale map of the school grounds for Silly Sally and Tricky Tiger to help them navigate and find their way around school. Firstly, we used 'Google Earth' to locate our school and see an aerial view. The children then discussed where they would need to put features of the school on the map and what they would draw to represent the feature (i.e a blue rectangle for the pool). They talked about how a map needs to be accurate so that locations are in the correct place. The children collaborated to produce one large map; we were impressed with their discussions and reasoning. The children visualised all the areas of the school and produced a very detailed map.



## Continued...

### Home Learning

To support this learning we have a few home learning tasks:

1. We would love to hear about all your experiences of different countries, communities, and cultures. For example, you may have family that grew up in a different country, or that are living in another part of the world. You may have a family member who speaks another language, or you may have visited another country on holiday. Please could you either post photos and information on Seesaw or bring something in to share with the whole class.
2. Draw a simple map of your house. Some of you have already done this and we will be sharing them over the next few weeks.
3. Take photos of the different places around your local area (church, shops, library, fire station) and post them on Seesaw. We will be talking about these in over the coming weeks.

### Let's Investigate – Caterpillars

#### New Arrivals!

This week we had some exciting new arrivals to the class. We have 35 baby caterpillars to look after! The children were very excited and curious about the new arrivals, and I think the caterpillars were equally curious about their new home. The children were very keen to accept the responsibility of looking after the caterpillars. They arrived in one pot, and we had to separate them to give each of them space to grow.

Over the next few weeks, we will be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. The children used their prior knowledge of 'cycles' to help them learn new knowledge. Previously, they have looked at the cycle of the seasons and the life cycle of a sunflower.

The children had lots of questions about the caterpillars that they would like to research over the coming weeks. One of the keys questions was, 'When would the caterpillars turn into butterflies?' We started by attempting to understand the concept of time. We began talking about the difference between years, months, weeks, days, hours, and minutes. They decided they would like to record how long it takes the caterpillars to turn into butterflies. The children are creating a timeline so they can observe any changes and eventually count the total number of days it takes.

You might like to watch this video clip with your child about life cycles.

<https://youtu.be/3kZD6rISLUw?si=YgBcc4XFo7VKYmqw>



## Swimming

Puffins and Penguins have enjoyed starting swimming lessons. They were very excited and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was wonderful to see so much determination. Here is a reminder of the swimming dates.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Please make sure your child has their swimming kit on each of these days.



## Sponsored Swim

Next week, the whole school will be taking part in a sponsored swim to raise funds for our school pool. Puffins and Penguins will be contributing to the challenge by taking part on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you to everyone who has supported the event so far – we can't wait to take part next week.

Having our own pool is a unique and special experience. Helping children learn to swim and be water confident is an essential skill. All the money raised will go towards improvements to the pool facilities so we can continue to offer this experience in the future. Thank you

**Preston Primary School**

# SPONSORED SWIM

**OUR CHALLENGE:**  
The stretch across the bay from Torquay to Brixham (approx. 4 miles)

**WE'RE SWIMMING TOGETHER**  
to raise money for improvements to our school pool facilities!

**SWIM FOR FUN SWIM FOR OUR SCHOOL!**

**TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE AND MAKE A SPLASH!**

**RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL**

**TOGETHER, WE CAN GO THE DISTANCE!**

**EVERY LENGTH COUNTS ✓**  
**EVERY STROKE COUNTS ✓**  
**EVERY DONATION COUNTS ✓**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US AND HELPING US REACH OUR GOAL!**

**FOPPS**  
Friends of Preston Primary School  
Working together to

**SCAN TO SPONSOR!**

## Maths

This week we explored subtraction. The children have been counting backwards and enjoying number rhymes such as 5 currant buns and 5 speckled frogs which takes 1 away each time. We have also been creating number stories using the vocabulary, First, Then, Now. For example, **First** there were 8 frogs, **Then** 3 frogs jumped into the pond, **Now** there are 5 frogs. We have been using 10 frames and objects to help visualise the stories. They have also been representing their subtraction stories as a number sentence.

There is a subtraction activity on Seesaw to complete.

## Invitation to The Foundation Celebration Show

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm, Foundation will be performing their celebration show in the school Hall. The children will be deciding the content of the show, and they are very excited to share this with you. There will be lots of singing, performing, and entertainment.

The show starts at 2.30pm. Children have will bring a line home to practise in a couple of weeks time.



Rock Up and Read



On **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 2.50pm** we would like to invite you to a 'Rock Up and Read' session. This will be an opportunity for you to come into the classroom 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 the classroom 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 'Simon's Sock' 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.
- Complete the home learning task detailed above. Walk around the local area and take pictures of the different places/features you see.
- Complete the subtraction activity on Seesaw.

## Important Dates

- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – Father's Day Shop in school
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June** – Rock up and Read 2.50pm in the classroom
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** – Non Uniform day and FOPPS Summer Fayre. Starts at 3:15pm on the school field.
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Sports Day. (Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Reserve date). Foundation 2.15pm – 3.15pm also includes a family picnic lunch 12.00 – 12.30pm
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** – Foundation Celebration Show 2.30pm – more info to follow
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July** – Foundation Beach Trip to Preston Sands
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July** – Sports Festival Trip to Paignton Academy
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** – 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**