



Preston Primary

Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter

Monday 5th October 2026



Love to
Learn

Be a Good
Citizen

Ready for
Work



Curriculum Update

Woodland Camp

The children have had lots of fun exploring the Woodland Camp. We sat on the seating around the 'fire circle' and reminded ourselves of the safety rules. We had a wonderful time exploring and playing in the woods with our new friends! The children also worked together to collect natural objects to make a hedgehog!



PE

In PE the children enjoyed exploring Mythical Creatures. They enjoyed using beanbags and pretending to be dragons, fairies and unicorns! They were practising jumping, throwing, catching, and passing hand to hand. The key objectives were:

Social: To be aware of others when working in a space.

Emotional: To be confident to try new challenges and keep trying if I find them difficult.

Thinking: To think about my learning and what I found challenging.

The children showed great responsibility for their learning. During a PE session the children are developing their relationships with one another, working creatively, following instructions, practising their listening and attention skills, exploring mathematical concepts, and keeping active. It is important to support the well-being of children, and we have identified that a great way to do this is through PE sessions.



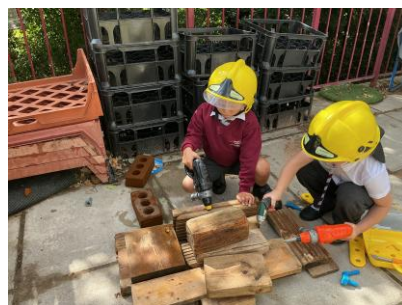
Special Boxes

It has been wonderful to listen to many children sharing their special boxes in class. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about their hobbies and interests; a great way for children to demonstrate how special and unique they are. We have been impressed by their confidence and enthusiasm to talk in front of new friends. It is a special moment when children find commonalities and realise they share interests. This is a great way of bringing everyone together. If your child would still like to share their special box, please bring it to school this week.



Child-Led Tour of the classrooms

Puffins and Penguins would like to invite you into the classroom on **Thursday 8th October at 2.50pm** to give you a tour of their learning environment. The aim of this session is for the children to talk to you about their new school and show you the different areas of the classroom that they have explored. The children will lead the tours and use a tour guide sheet to help them. We will open the playground gate at 2.50pm for you to enter the classrooms. We look forward to welcoming you all.



If parents and carers are not able to attend it can be whoever is collecting that day. We ask that there are no more than two adults per child for the tour due to limited space. If you have any further questions, please come and speak to us.

Phonics – Read Write Inc

Last week we learnt the sounds 'k', 'u', 'g', 'b' and 'f'. There is a short review video on Seesaw for children to watch and join in. The video helps children to recall sounds speedily. This will help children to move to the next stage of reading – blending sounds to read words. Please do not worry if your child does not know all the sounds. You can either pause the video or only do the first part of the video which is guided. Your child has also been given a handwriting booklet and pencil control booklet to use at home – there is a video on Seesaw explaining how to use them.

To help children with oral blending (hearing sounds and blending them together to make a word) we have introduced them to Maggie Muncher this week. She enjoys eating lots of random objects. We have assigned a video from Maggie on Seesaw. Have fun!



Phonic Information Session

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Phonic Information Session last week. It was wonderful to share our passion for reading and share information on how we teach reading and handwriting in school. If you were unable to attend the meeting but would like some information, please come and speak to a member of the team. If you attended the Phonic Information session, please could you complete this very short feedback questionnaire. It will help us develop future parent workshops. Thank you in advance.

[Feedback Form - Parent Phonic Information Session September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Room on the Broom

The children have enjoyed reading the story 'Room on the Broom' by author Julia Donaldson. We have read the story many times so the children are familiar with the text and can join in with the familiar phrases. They have been using some of the vocabulary from the book and enjoyed taking part in some drama. We introduced the following vocabulary:

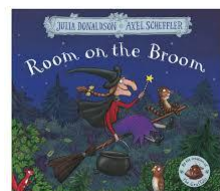
Searched – 'I searched for my other shoe, but I could not find it'.

Grinned – 'Freddie grinned when he saw his pudding at lunchtime'.

Magnificent – 'Your writing is magnificent'.

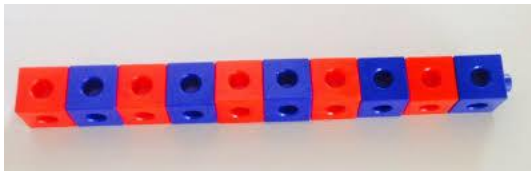
Politely – 'Harry politely held the door open for Mrs Oliver'.

Please try and use these words at home in different contexts with the children.



Maths

In maths we have been exploring patterns. The children have explored simple AB patterns - for example red, blue, red, blue - using a variety of materials such as cubes, beads, and counters. We have been impressed with their determination creativity to create patterns.



This week we will move on to more complex ABC patterns (blue, red, yellow, blue, red, yellow), adding an extra challenge and encouraging careful observation and prediction.



It is tricky for children to spot the unit of repeat and continue a pattern. We have been impressed with their determination and resilience to learn how to spot and create simple AB patterns. Well done everyone. We have set a pattern challenge on Seesaw this week. You might like to help your child make a simple repeating AB pattern at home and send us a picture on Seesaw. This could be made with anything; leaf, stick, leaf, stick or cup, fork, cup, fork.



Learning Ladder

We recently introduced the children to our **Learning Ladder**. In Foundation Stage, the ladder is used as a visual way to recognise and reward children who challenge themselves and demonstrate positive learning behaviours.

Children can “jump” up the ladder by applying skills and knowledge they have been taught. For example, after learning how to create an AB pattern in a maths lesson, a child might independently use this knowledge to create further patterns during Choosing Learning Time.

Children can also jump up the ladder for demonstrating our School Values. For example, by being a positive role model, persevering when something feels challenging, demonstrating excellent teamwork, or showing resilience. When they reach the top of the ladder, they are rewarded with a “dip in the box” and can choose a small prize to keep. This helps children recognise that effort, independence, and determination are all important parts of successful learning.



Harvest Donations

We are very grateful to our families for your support and wonderful harvest donations of tinned and dried foods. Our collection was donated to Feed a Child Torbay. These donations will help local families across Torbay. Through our links to local charities, our pupils develop a sense of the wider world around them, helping them to develop into good citizens of the future, which is one of our School Aims.



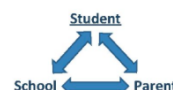
Parent Teacher Meetings – Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October

Our Foundation Stage Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 13th October and Wednesday 14th October, 3.30pm–6.00pm**

We hold our Foundation Stage meetings before half term because we recognise the importance of developing strong relationships with families when children begin school. Following the children’s first six weeks of settling in, we feel this is an ideal opportunity to discuss how they are progressing. Parent Teacher Meetings for the rest of the school will take place after half term. Appointments will last for 10 minutes and provide parents and carers with an opportunity to speak individually with their child’s teacher about their learning and development.

It has been a wonderful start to the school year. During the meeting, we will share how your child has settled into school, the relationships they are developing, how they are engaging with the curriculum, and ways in which you can support their learning at home.

Please enter the school through the main office, where you will be directed to the appropriate waiting area for your appointment. **To book your appointment, please click on the Parent Meeting tab on the Arbor Parent Portal/Arbor app. The Parent Meeting tab is under the Guardian Consultation title on Arbor. Bookings will open Monday 5th October at 6pm. Please book your appointment by Monday 12th October – the booking system will be unavailable after that time.**



Transition Questionnaire

We have created a short online transition questionnaire to collect your views regarding transition to Preston Primary. We would really appreciate a few minutes of your time to respond to the questionnaire.

[Transition to Preston Primary School September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

We have also assigned a link to the questionnaire on Seesaw.

Thank you in advance for your support.

If you know of a child who is due to start school in September 2027, please let their family know about our upcoming tour dates:

Tuesday 6th October at 9:30am and 3:30pm

Tuesday 13th October at 9:30am

Tuesday 20th October at 9:30am

Wednesday 4th November at 9:30am and 3:30pm

Tuesday 10th November at 9:30am

Thursday 19th November at 9:30am

Home Learning for children and parents

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw read by Mrs Fox
- Watch and join in with Maggie Muncher oral blending activity on Seesaw.
- complete the short feedback questionnaire if you attended the parent information session.
- [Feedback Form - Parent Phonic Information Session September 2026 – Fill in form](#)
- Create a box of special items to share with your friends (if you haven't already).
- Watch and join in with the review sounds video
- Try the pattern activity on Seesaw or send us a picture of a simple pattern you have created at home.
- Complete the transition questionnaire [Transition to Preston Primary School September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Important Dates

- **Thursday 8th October** - SEND/Pastoral drop in for parents – 2pm – 3pm in the Pastoral Office.
- **Thursday 8th October** – Child Led Tour in Puffins and Penguins 2.50pm
- **Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October** - Puffins and Penguins Parent Teacher Meetings
- **Thursday 22nd October** - Non uniform day and disco during school day.
- **Friday 23rd October** – Non Pupil day – staff training only
- **Monday 26th October – Friday 1st November** – Half Term – School Closed
- **Monday 2nd November** – Children return to school

More dates can be found on the school website.

Kind Regards, Mrs Bastin, Mrs Fox, and the Foundation Stage Team

Please share this poster with anyone that has a child starting school in September 2027.

Thank you.



SCHOOL TOURS

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2027?



Come and discover life at Preston

We warmly invite prospective families to meet our team, explore our Foundation provision and see our school in action.

TOUR DATES

THURSDAY 1 st OCTOBER 9:30am	WEDNESDAY 4 th NOVEMBER 9:30am and 3:30pm
TUESDAY 6 th OCTOBER 9:30am and 3:30pm	TUESDAY 10 th NOVEMBER 9:30am
TUESDAY 13 th OCTOBER 9:30am	THURSDAY 19 th NOVEMBER 9:30am
TUESDAY 20 th OCTOBER 9:30am	WEDNESDAY 25 th NOVEMBER 9:30am and 3:30pm



www.preston.torbay.sch.uk

BOOK YOUR TOUR

Please contact the school office to reserve your place.

01803 607075
admin@preston.torbay.sch.uk