Preston Primary
Unit 1 Puffins and Penguins Newsletter
Friday 6th November 2026

Love to Learn | Be a Good Citizen | Ready for Work













Let's Celebrate



This half-term, we will be learning about celebrations and festivals. We will be talking about and answering the following questions.

1. Why do people celebrate special days?

2.Where and how do people celebrate?

3. How are my celebration experiences similar to and different from those of others?

4.What is the significance of performing a Nativity?

The children enjoyed sharing their own experiences of different celebrations and we created a list of activities that might occur during a celebration. For example, there might be a party with friends, family, decorations, food, fireworks, singing, dancing, and gifts.

This week we focused our learning on Bonfire Night. The children have been talking about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot. Teaching children about historical events is important as it helps them to gain an understanding of time. Some of the vocabulary we have been using is November, Houses of Parliament, explode, plot, and past. The children talked about their own experiences of Bonfire night. It was lovely to listen to their stories.

As part of the learning, we talked about how to stay safe on Bonfire Night. We had our own small bonfire in the Woodland Camp, and the children showed great responsibility and enjoyed sitting by the fire. The children have also been exploring colours making firework pictures and sparklers.







Celebrations continued…








Next week we will be learning about Diwali.

HOME LEARNING

As part of home learning this week, please could you tell us about the different celebrations your family has enjoyed. These could be weddings, birthdays, religious festivals, christenings, anniversaries, or bonfire night. Please either send in or e-mail some photographs with an explanation about the celebrations or send us the details via Seesaw. We really appreciate your support; it really helps to have images from home to prompt discussion. Thank you if you have already provided images.

School Value - Responsibility





'I am Responsibility Rex. I am always in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. I am very good at looking after our environment and take care of all the equipment and people in our school. I am responsible for my own learning and enjoy reaching my targets. I like challenges and I am proud of the things I do in order to achieve them.'

Responsibility School Value continued...

Our School Value focus this half term is Responsibility. We introduced the children to Responsibility Rex, our School Value dinosaur. The children took part in a carousel of activities to discuss and learn about the different responsibilities they have in school and at home. We were very impressed with their ideas and understanding of responsibility.

They visited Patience the rabbit and Nugget the guinea pig, learning about their responsibilities to care for the school animals. The children discussed their responsibilities around the school and at home. They read the story 'Litterbug Doug' by Ellie Bethel and talked about their responsibility to look after the environment.

We will continue to learn about responsibility in school, and we would love to see and hear about the responsibilities the children have at home. Please share a picture on Seesaw of your child demonstrating responsibility, i.e. laying the table, tidying their bedroom, making their bed.






Maths – Super Subitisers!

In Maths, we have been developing our subitising skills – the ability to recognise how many objects there are without needing to count them individually. The children have been using subitising flashcards and exploring different dot patterns on dice to practise recognising quantities quickly and confidently. We have been encouraging the children to explain what they can see and how they know how many dots there are, helping to develop their mathematical reasoning and understanding of number. These important early maths skills provide a strong foundation for future learning, including addition and subtraction.

Why not practise at home? Roll a dice and see if your child can tell you how many dots they can see without counting!

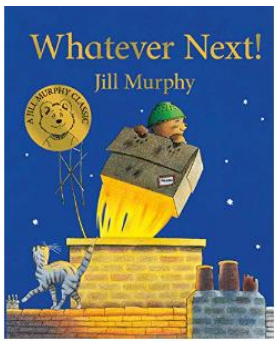


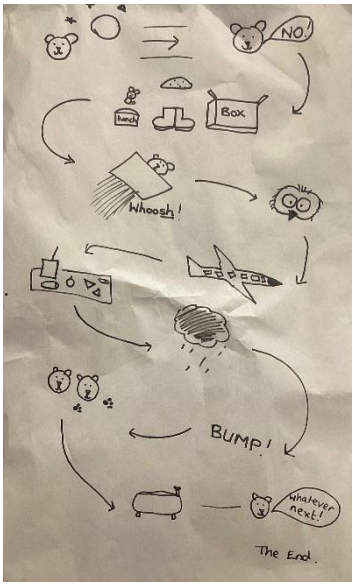


Literacy – 'Whatever Next!'

This week we began exploring the story book 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. We read the story and made story maps. We will continue the story next week learning vocabulary and using drama to retell the story.

Enjoy the story on Seesaw read by Mrs Bastin.





Woodland Camp – Autumn Crowns

This week the children continued their learning about Autumn. They collected a variety of leaves and created an Autumn Crown! They were very proud of their creations and found some beautiful leaves.







Uniform

During the colder months, you may want to send your child in with a hat, gloves, and a scarf to keep them warm during outdoor breaktimes.

Here is a reminder of our school uniform:

- V necked burgundy jumper/cardigan with the Preston Primary logo (available from Riviera Schooldays)
- Preston Primary School tie (available from Riviera Schooldays)
- Grey School Trousers/Shorts/Skirt/Pinafore dress
- White Shirt/Blouse with collar **(no polo shirts)**
- Grey/black Socks for boys
- Grey/white socks or grey/black tights for girls
- Black School Shoes (no trainers) no high heels or boots
- Burgundy/Red gingham dress for the Summer term

Please remember to label each item.





Further details can be found on the school website. School Uniform at Preston Primary School

Date for the diary - Maths Workshop for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to invite you and your child to our Maths Workshop, which is being held on Monday 23rd November 5pm-6pm. We will talk about how maths is taught in Foundation then you will go to the classroom to try some activities with your child.

If your child is unable to attend, please feel free to come along by yourself.

To book a space, please complete the short form by following the link below.

Attendance Confirmation - Foundation Maths Workshop- Monday 23rd November – Fill in form

We look forward to welcoming you.

Read Write Inc



Before half-term, all children were assessed in phonics. Puffins and Penguins have now been split into smaller 'Read Write Inc' (RWI) groups so they can focus on their particular targets for reading. For example, some children will still be assigned oral blending activities on Seesaw and other children will bring material home in their bookbag to read. Every child's reading journey is unique, and we celebrate all their successes.

Your child's RWI teacher will provide your child with a phonics or reading activity to practise at home. This will either be posted on Seesaw or sent home with your child in their book bag. All children need to continue practising the speed sounds to build fluency.

If you have any questions about phonics, please do not hesitate to ask. We will continue to share information on your child's phonic journey.

Whole School Annual Parent and Carer Survey

On Parents Evening we shared a QR code to complete a whole school parent and carer annual survey. We greatly value the role you play in your child's education and in our school community. Your feedback helps us understand what we as a school are doing well and where we can make improvements to better support our children and families. If you didn't complete the survey, please use the link below to submit a response. By completing the survey you are helping us continue to create a positive and supportive learning environment for every child. Thank you for your time and for working in partnership with us.

Parent Survey 2026 – Fill in form

Home Learning

- Enjoy the story on Seesaw - Whatever Next' read by Mrs Bastin
- Play a dice game
- E-mail or send in photographs of your family celebrating different occasions. Or you can send them via Seesaw. The e-mail address is foundation@preston.torbay.sch.uk
- Send an image on Seesaw of your child demonstrating Responsibility at home.
- Check your child's book bag or Seesaw for phonics activities and reading to complete at home.
- Complete the whole school annual parent and carer survey Parent Survey 2026 – Fill in form

Important Dates for your Diary

Monday 9th November - School Nurse drop in session – 2-3pm

Thursday 12th November - Year R National Child Measurement Programme

Friday 13th November - Children in Need (children to wear usual school uniform but can wear a Children in Need accessory, if they wish)

Monday 16th November - FOPPS AGM at 7pm **– All Welcome**

Monday 23rd November – Foundation Maths Workshop 5-6pm

Tuesday 1st December – Foundation Visit to St Paul's Church

Wednesday 2nd December – Christmas Jumper Swap Shop (further details to follow)

Thursday 3rd December – SEND/Pastoral Drop in – 2-3pm

Friday 4th December – Non-Uniform Day and FOPPS Christmas Market

Monday 7th December – Visit Preston Community Preschool to watch a nativity

Tuesday 8th December – Foundation Nativity at 9.30am in the school hall

Thursday 10th December – FOPPS Elfridges shop – more information to follow

Monday 14th December – Foundation Rock Up and Read 2.50pm – more details to follow

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Lunch in School (children can wear usual school uniform with Christmas tops/jumpers, if they wish)

Friday 18th December - Last day of Autumn Term – Unit Christmas parties for all children during the school day (children can wear usual school uniform with Christmas tops/jumpers, if they wish)

From Mrs Bastin, Mrs Fox, and the Foundation Stage Team