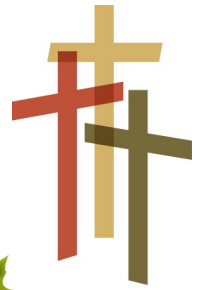




PRESTON PRESS

Autumn Newsletter 2—October 2024



Message from Mrs Hodgson:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The half term break is already upon us and no doubt the children are looking forward to a break after such a busy eight weeks. There is never a dull day here at Preston Primary and I hope you enjoy reading all the wonderful activities both here and on our class pages on the website.

This week, we were thrilled to share the wonderful outcome of our recent SIAMS inspection, which praised our school's commitment to our Christian vision. The report highlighted how this vision underpins our belief that every pupil is precious, unique, and valued, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this achievement possible.

We were also incredibly pleased to formally open our new Art Studio this term, which is an excellent addition to the school. A huge thank you to Mrs Rich and Miss Johnstone for initiating the project, engaging the community and working hard to see the project to completion.

Thank you for attending Parents Evenings this week. It is so important that we work together to support your child's learning and development. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries about your child's education or welfare.

Wishing you a very restful half term.

Best wishes,

Claire Hodgson,
Headteacher.



Owl Obsession Visit

A massive thank you to our wonderful PTA who arranged for 'Owl Obsession' to come into school and show us their beautiful owls. The children had an amazing time learning about owls and we were delighted to be able to stroke the birds too. What a fantastic start to our third week! Pictured: Brooklyn from Pine Class



Attendance Guidance

We all know that good attendance and punctuality is crucial to children attaining well, making good progress and reaching their potential. You may have seen that the government has updated its school attendance guidance to parents and schools in August.

Please note that we cannot authorise absence requests except in exceptional circumstances.

For the latest guidance from the Department for Education, please see our website: [Attendance | Preston C of E Primary School \(secure-primariesite.net\)](https://www.secure-primariesite.net/attendance)

Thank you.

Safeguarding – Online Safety

We take online safety very seriously and if a child discloses that they have been exposed to online content which is inappropriate for their age, whether through apps such as Youtube or WhatsApp, or possibly a game, we are obliged to record this as a safeguarding concern. Excessive screen time is also a concern for children's mental health which we will always discuss with you.

If you are struggling to control what your child accesses or how long they use their devices, please see us as we can advise on setting filters and parental controls.



Reception



Bible Gifts

Children in Reception were all gifted a bible from the school this term. We hope they enjoy sharing the stories with you. Pictured: Aria & Reggie

Welcome to Reception

Our new reception children have had a fantastic start to their time at primary school. We have been learning about our school rules and routines. We have also been learning number songs and familiar sounds that we hear in our environment. The children have impressed us so much by how quickly they have settled in. Well done everyone on having such an excellent start to your time at primary school.



National Poetry Day

Year 1 celebrated National Poetry Day by trying Mrs Cashmore's challenge of writing a class acrostic poem. After writing their poem, pupils looked at another poem about leaves, which they learned off by heart and they recorded themselves reciting it. Then to continue the fun, they all went outside to explore Autumnal leaves.

Measuring in Maths



Pupils in Year 1 had fun comparing the lengths of objects to find the longest and the shortest item in a recent maths lesson. Children then used a scale to find their heights in centimetres. The children all displayed some top notch measuring skills!



Year 2

Felt Pictures

Year 2 having been using the newly opened art studio to create pieces of felt from our drawings of maps. We had to arrange wool roving to form a picture, use soap and water and lots of elbow grease to flatten the fibres and the leave our felt pieces to dry.



Place Value Using Straws

We have been thinking about the value of each digit in a 2-digit number. We represented these numbers using straws. There were bundles of 10 straws and individual straws. We then thought about 1/10 more/less than our numbers.



Year 3



Nutrition, Skeletons & Muscles

This term, in Year 3, our science topic is Animals including Humans. We been learning all about nutrition, skeletons and muscles. To demonstrate that muscles pull and do not push, we made models of our hands.



Stone Age Day

This half term, we have been learning all about the Stone Age. As part of this, we spent the day as cavemen and women - painting cave drawings, cooking stewed fruit and being hunters! Thank you parents for the wonderful costumes.



Volcanoes!

As part of our Geography topic this term, we have been learning about volcanoes. Having made fantastic volcanic structures using papier-mâché, the children are really looking forward to seeing them erupt (thanks to a chemical reaction between vinegar, baking powder and washing up liquid!).



Carymoor Trip

Year 4 visited Carymoor this month, which perfectly ties in with our science topic on living things and their habitats. The children had a fantastic time learning about the environment and the impact of not recycling. They enjoyed activities like pond dipping and creating mini-beasts out of clay. It was a wonderful day, and the children's excellent behaviour made it even more enjoyable!



Year 5

Visit to St James' Church

Reverend Keen warmly welcomed the pupils and talked them through what happens at St James' Church during our recent visit. He explained the services, traditions, and the role the church plays in the local community.



Ashford Water Works

Year 5 had a great trip to Ashford Water Works. On the factory tour, we learned how dirt is cleaned from water and saw

how pH levels are tested. The children loved timing a cork to measure river flow and building dams with rocks. We also spotted wildlife like ducks, swans, and a giant worm at the reservoir! The guides were impressed with our knowledge and enthusiasm!



Year 6

YOUNG MINDS

#HelloYellow Day — Youth Mental Health

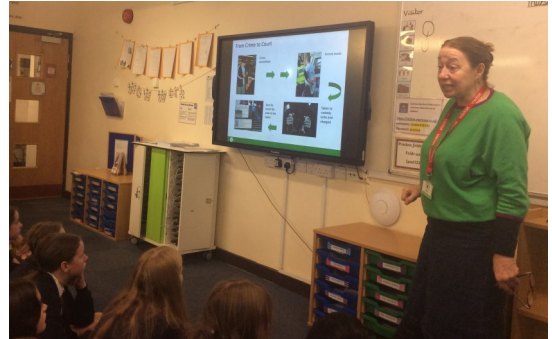
In October we all celebrated *Hello Yellow* day to raise awareness for mental health recently. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors led assemblies, shared a story about emotions, and gave tips like using breathing techniques and giving compliments. Children enjoyed mindful activities. Thank you for your donations—we raised £293.12!



#HelloYellow

Magistrate Visit

Year 6 were lucky enough to welcome Mary (a local magistrate) into Preston Primary in order to gain an insight into her job and role in the justice system. They learned about court procedures, different types of sentencing and the types of crimes that she typically deals with. She also gave them some helpful tips for the upcoming Mock Trial next month.



Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament

Mrs Chambers took a group of Year 3/4 children to Bucklers Mead for a football tournament against 11 other primary schools. They did so well, drawing 1 game and winning 3! We are very proud of you all!



Year 4 Tennis Workshop

We had James, from Premier Sports, join us to do a tennis workshop in September. The children showed off their skills and learned lots about controlling the ball! They will be ready for Wimbledon in no time!



Sport

Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust Sessions

Year 5 have been fortunate enough to have weekly visits from Niall, from Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust, who has been running team building workshops for them. The children have been having an amazing time tackling fun challenges and solving problems together. Sessions have been full of energy, with the children learning valuable skills in teamwork, collaboration, and supporting one another.



Dance Sessions

As part of PE Year 3 have been enjoying dance lessons courtesy of Tia, from Keri Hill Dance. The children fully immersed themselves in the music and showed great rhythm!



General News

Harvest Festival

Rev Keen led our Harvest Festival Assembly at the end of September. A BIG 'thank you' to everyone who donated goods for our collection for The Lord's Larder.



Youth Mental Health Day

To celebrate Youth Mental Health Day with the theme "Control Your Scroll," our wellbeing ambassadors and digital leaders visited each class to discuss the importance of managing our online presence. Their aim was to empower children to balance their online and offline lives, promoting emotional resilience and mindfulness in the digital age.



Reminders

If you haven't done so already, please remember to:

- Book your child's school lunches for after half term, this includes the Christmas Lunch (deadline for booking is 2nd December).
- Return your child's data sheet to the school office.
- Complete the online consent for the Pantomime.
- Let us know your thoughts with the parent survey.

Thank you!



Guitar Success

Jasmine and Sophie, both from Year 6, recently passed exams in Acoustic Guitar (Jasmine—Grade 2 & Sophie—Grade 3). Thank you to Mr Osborne who runs lessons in school. The girls pictured with their certificates—Jasmine left and Sophie right.



Summer Reading Challenge

A big thank you to everyone who participated in Mrs. Cashmore's Summer Reading Challenge.

The entries were all fantastic, showcasing impressive writing skills across the board. It was incredibly difficult to choose the winners, but congratulations to Lucy, Ferne & Arianna (pictured left to right) for their outstanding work!



Art Studio Opening

At the end of September we had the official opening of our Art Studio. By providing a dedicated art space we are one step closer to achieving an 'Arts Mark Status'. We would like to thank all the individuals and companies who kindly donated their time and resources to making the Art Studio a reality.



Preston C of E Primary School

The Toose, Abbey Manor Park, Yeovil,
Somerset, BA21 3SN

Tel: 01935 474538 Fax: 01935 433549

e-mail: office@preston.ppat365.org

Website www.prestoncofeprimary.co.uk

Headteacher Mrs Claire Hodgson BA (Hons)

Diary Dates

- Friday 25th October - Year 4 Diwali Day
Friday 25th October - Year 1 Tea Party with Mrs Hodgson (selected pupils)
Monday 28th October—
Friday 1st November - Half Term
Monday 4th November - Back to School
Monday 4th November - Year 5 Swimming (7 x Sessions)
Friday 8th November - PTA Family Bingo (from 6pm)
Monday 11th November - Jewish Dance Workshops
Monday 11th November - Remembrance Assembly
Tuesday 12th November - Year 6 Mock Trial (selected pupils)
Tuesday 12th November - Year 2 Trip to Bovington Tank Museum
Tuesday 12th November - Africa Choir Concert (3.30pm—8pm) - selected pupils
Friday 15th November - Children in Need
Wednesday 13th November - Year 4 Ancient Egyptian Workshop
Monday 18th November - RSPCA Assemblies & Workshops
Tuesday 19th November - KS2 Creative Career Talks Assembly
Friday 22nd November - Whole School Sponsored Run for School in a Bag (School Charity)
Monday 25th November - Rev Keen Assemblies
Tuesday 3rd December - Reception Nativity to Parents (2.30pm)
Wednesday 4th December - St James' Church Visit—Reception Classes
Wednesday 4th December - Reception Nativity to Parents (2.30pm)
Friday 6th December - PTA Christmas Fayre (3.30pm onwards)
Friday 6th December - Year 2 Tea Party with Mrs Hodgson (selected pupils)
Monday 9th December - Year 2 Nativity to Parents (2.30pm)
Tuesday 10th December - Year 2 Nativity to Parents (2.30pm)
Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Dinner Day (book via ParentPay, deadline 02.12.24)
Thursday 12th December - Year 1 Nativity to Parents (2.30pm)
Friday 13th December - Year 1 Nativity to Parents (2.30pm)
Wednesday 18th December - Whole School Pantomime (late finish— 4.30pm collection from the school)
Thursday 19th December - Christmas Services at St James' Church
Friday 20th December - Last Day of Term—Non-uniform Day
Monday 23rd December—
Friday 3rd January 2025 - Christmas Holidays
Monday 6th January - Teacher Training Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 7th January - First Day of Term
Thursday 9th January - Year 4 India Workshop
Monday 13th January - Year 4 Swimming (7 x Sessions)
Friday 17th January - Reception Tea Party with Mrs Hodgson (selected pupils)
Monday 20th January - Sycamore Class to Nothe Fort
Wednesday 22nd January - Mulberry Class to Nothe Fort
Monday 3rd February - Cross Country—Yeovil Showground (4pm—5pm)
Tuesday 4th February - Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop
Friday 7th February - PTA School Discos (details to follow in January)

