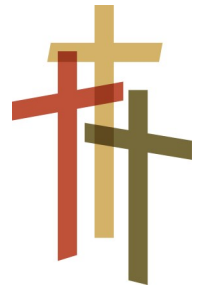




PRESTON PRESS

Autumn Newsletter 4—December 2024



Message from Mrs Hodgson:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the holiday season approaches, we are filled with the joy and excitement of Christmas. This term has been another busy one, with numerous trips, sporting events, and special visitors (including Santa arriving by helicopter!). The children have truly impressed us, filling our school hall with their wonderful singing during the Nativity plays and making us proud with their beautiful readings and carol performances.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the PTA for organising a tremendously successful Christmas Fair and funding yet another memorable school trip to the Pantomime, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

As always, the children continue to amaze us with their enthusiasm for school, despite the usual seasonal coughs and colds, and with their kindness towards others. It is a true privilege to work with them each day.

I hope the upcoming Christmas break provides you with the opportunity to rest, relax, and spend quality time with your loved ones. On behalf of all the staff and pupils at Preston Primary, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas.

We look forward to continuing our work together in the new year.

Best wishes,

Claire Hodgson,
Headteacher.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Leonardo's Science Event

KS2 pupils had a fantastic time at the *Leonardo's Presents from the Skies: How a Helicopter Flies* event. Santa's Helpers from Leonardo Helicopters in Yeovil shared how helicopters fly and the importance of engineering in Santa's Workshop, inspiring both DT and STEM students. Interactive booths with hands-on activities captivated the children, making it a fun and educational evening for budding designers and engineers alike! Pictured: Harry & Lexi



November Snow!

After an unusual fall of snow this November, the children enjoyed a chilly playtime! Pictured: Oscar and children from Year 1.



Safeguarding—Online Safety

As the holiday season approaches and many children may receive new gadgets or devices as gifts, we kindly ask parents to be mindful of applying appropriate filters and parental controls to ensure online safety. These measures are essential in protecting children from accessing unsuitable content.

If you are unsure about how to set up filters or need guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us for support. We are here to help ensure that your child can safely enjoy their new devices while staying protected online. There are also links on our latest online safety newsletter on the website.

End of Day

May we remind you that for Health and Safety reasons, children are not permitted to re-enter the school after pick up time aside from exceptional circumstances or pre-arranged meetings. Thank you.

Reception

St James' Church Visit

The children in Reception went on their first ever school trip this week to St James' Church. We walked down to the church and whilst we were there, learnt about the reasons why people visit churches. We were also told the Nativity story and sang some of our nativity songs.



Outdoor Learning

The children in Reception had a fantastic, fun filled forest school session with Mrs Chislett and their parents. The children made bird feeders, completed a treasure hunt, made fairy wands and completed collage pictures, all out of natural resources from our environment. The children had a fabulous time learning outside, thank you to all of the parents who were able to come in and help.



Welcome Sign

Year 1 loved the opportunity to make a new Welcome Sign for the Welcome Garden. The children enjoyed using the paints to decorate the letters and posts. We hope you enjoy looking at the signs on your way into our school.



Year 1

RSPCA Visit

Pear Class were extremely lucky to have a visit from Alex who works at the RSPCA. She taught us all about what to do if animals are poorly and all about hedgehogs, including where they live and what they eat and drink. The children expressed their creativity and made their own hedgehogs, using clay and spaghetti.



Year 2

Printmaking

Pupils in Year 2 designed and made maps of their routes to school this term. The children used their maps to create prints by choosing a section of their map to recreate. The chosen sections were then drawn onto a polystyrene tile, ink was rolled onto the design this created the prints!



Bovington Tank Museum

As part of our History work on Remembrance, we visited Bovington Tank Museum. It was incredible to see such a variety of tanks close up and realise how huge they are.



We saw the cramped conditions that the soldiers had to endure inside and we even got to experience what life in the trenches was like. The children enjoyed collecting the stamps around the exhibitions and trying on some of the uniforms from different time periods. A great day was had by all!



Year 3

Christmas Cards to West Abbey

As part of our community links, Year 3 pupils made Christmas cards for the residents at West Abbey Care Home, which were delivered by some of the pupils. The residents were really pleased and it was lovely to spread some Christmas cheer!



Computing—Animation

Year 3 explored animation by working in pairs or small groups to create their own short films. They designed unique backgrounds and a few characters to bring their stories to life. Using the Stop Motion app, they carefully captured each frame to animate the scenes.

Egyptian Workshop

Year 4 enjoyed an incredible Egyptian Workshop from the Somerset Museum. We explored real artifacts, painted scarab beetles, dressed in traditional Egyptian costumes, and baked bread with dates using ancient techniques. The highlight was becoming archaeologists, carefully uncovering and analysing ancient objects.



Year 4

Outdoor Learning

Year 4 have been thoroughly enjoying their outdoor learning sessions this term. The children have made bird feeders to support local wildlife, built bug hotels, tidied the school pond and went pond dipping to discover fascinating creatures. Embracing the festive spirit, they have also crafted beautiful Christmas decorations.



Year 5

Year 5 celebrated Mitzvah Day (a Jewish celebration) in a recent RE lesson. This day is a time to perform good deeds and help others. To contribute to the community and care for the environment, the class made bird feeders, which will be hung in the garden of a local care home. This activity reminded us all of the power of small acts of kindness in making a big difference.



Year 5 Greek Day

Year 5 was transported back to the world of Ancient Greece for a day of immersive learning and fun! The children designed and crafted Greek Story vases, showcasing their artistic talents, and brought mythical creatures to life through junk modelling. In the afternoon, the playground became an Olympic arena, with shotput, discus, and standing long jump competitions. It was an insightful and educational experience that fostered a deeper understanding of this fascinating era.



Year 6

Christmas Dinner

As part of their cooking DT project, Year 6 designed and created a Christmas dinner. The children peeled, chopped, boiled and baked their way to a fantastic end product that would rival some restaurants in the local area. There was even enough time for some Christmas decorations to be put up!



Pig Heart Experiment

To further their understanding of the human body, Year 6 dissected a pig's heart to better grasp how it works. They learned about the functions of the various arteries, veins and chambers associated with the heart and a few children were even brave enough to feel the texture of the various components.



Year 5/6 Football

The Year 5/6 football team have participated in two tournaments in the lead up to the Christmas holidays and have performed very well. With a particularly strong defence, they have only conceded 2 goals in 11 games, contributing to several wins and draws. I would like to thank everyone who has played so far for showing excellent commitment and sportsmanship throughout.



Year 2 Tea Party



Left—right: Oliver, Saffron, Emily, Mrs Hodgson, Sonnie, Poppy & Maisy

Interfaith Week

During Interfaith Week, Keri Hill came in to teach us how to do a Jewish Celebration Dance. The children learned the dance well and thoroughly enjoyed the session.



Remembrance Day

As a school we all gathered in the playground for our 2 minute silence to remember the sacrifices made during wars worldwide on November 11th. Those children who belonged to clubs like scouts and brownies wore their uniforms as a mark of respect.



Primary School Admissions

Please note that the closing date for applications for starting school in September 2025 is **15th January 2025**. If you apply online you will receive an email informing you of your child's allocated school on 16th April 2025.

School Lunch Reminders

Please be reminded to book your child's hot dinners for next term by **Monday 30th December at 9pm**.



Nativities & A Christmas Visitor

Reception Nativity—Christmas Counts



Year 1—Superstar



Year 2—The First Christmas



Santa's Helicopter Visit

In early December we had a special delivery via helicopter—Father Christmas! The children all watched in awe as the helicopter landed on the school field. The children gave Father Christmas letters from their classes and chatted away to him and his elf before the noisy helicopter whisked him away to his next stop!



Charity News

Children in Need

A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped us support 'Children in Need' by wearing spots for a donation. We raised a fantastic **£424.89**. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Pudsey who wanted to thank us for our generosity!



Macmillan Cancer Support

Theo, Bradley & Reggie (brothers) supported their mum as she shaved their nanny's head for the charity **Macmillan Cancer Support**. As part of a combination of charity skittle matches, 'brave the shave' and cake sale the boys helped the family raise £1888 on their 'Go Fund Me' page. Well done boys (and mum and nanny).



Olivia's 8 Mile Challenge

After hearing about the plight of children without basic school stationery in other countries, Olivia decided to help the 'School in a Bag' charity by doing an 8 mile sponsored walk. Olivia walked a mile for every year of her life and she raised a phenomenal £1,025—enough to fill 51 bags! A huge congratulations to Olivia.



Sponsored Run for School in a Bag

A huge well done to all the children for their fantastic effort in the sponsored run for *School in a Bag*! Their determination and enthusiasm were truly inspiring. We are thrilled to announce that we raised a total of **£5,293.36**, thanks to everyone's generous contributions. Your support will make a real difference and we are incredibly grateful to our school community for coming together to help such an important cause. Thank you for your kindness and encouragement!



Friday 20th December -
Monday 23rd December—
Friday 3rd January 2025
Monday 6th January
 Tuesday 7th January
 Wednesday 8th January
 Friday 10th January
 Monday 13th January
 Monday 13th January
 Friday 17th January
 Monday 20th January
 Wednesday 22nd January
 Thursday 23rd January
 Monday 27th January
 Thursday 30th January
 Thursday 30th January
 Monday 3rd February
 Monday 3rd—Friday 7th Feb
 Tuesday 4th February
 Thursday 6th February
 Tuesday 11th February
Monday 17th—
Friday 21st February
 Friday 28th February
 Monday 3rd March
 Wednesday 5th March
 Thursday 6th March
 Friday 7th March
 Monday 10th March
 Wednesday 12th March
 Thursday 13th March
 Friday 21st March
 Monday 24th March
 Monday 31st March
 Tuesday 1st April

Diary Dates

- Last Day of Term—Non-uniform Day
- **Christmas Holidays**
- **Teacher Training Day (School Closed)**
- First Day of Term
- Year 4 India Workshop
- PTA Gift Amnesty (more details to follow)
- Year 4 Swimming (7 x Sessions)
- ****Clubs Start This Week****
- Reception Tea Party with Mrs Hodgson (selected pupils)
- Sycamore Class to Nothe Fort
- Mulberry Class to Nothe Fort
- Basketball Tournament (venue tbc)
- Badminton Tournament (venue tbc)
- Rabbi Visit (Year 5 & 6)
- Bishop Visit
- Cross Country—Yeovil Showground (4pm—5pm)
- Children’s Mental Health Week
- Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop
- Basketball Tournament (venue tbc)
- Safer Internet Day
- **Half Term**
- PTA School Discos (*please note date change—details to follow in January)
- Cross Country—Aldon Hill, Yeovil (4pm—5pm)
- Year 4 Trip to Glastonbury Abbey
- World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character)
- World Prayer Day
- Year 3 Swimming (7 x sessions)
- Science Fair (School Hall)
- Year 5 Victorian Workshop
- Year 3 Tea Party with Mrs Hodgson (selected pupils)
- Cross Country—Mudford Recreation Ground, Yeovil (4pm—5pm)
- Parent Evening
- Parent Evening



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