Dear Parents and Carers,

School Easter service
Well done to the children who shared their prayers and readings beautifully at the Easter service earlier this week.

Easter egg competition
This year’s theme of “Winter Olympics” produced some very creative entries. Judging was egg-ceedingly tricky and a huge well done to all the children who clearly worked hard on their entries.

Congratulations to the overall winners in each class!
Wrens: Joseph G
Puffins: Carter G
Owls: Sophia W
Robins: Evie L
Kingfishers: Oliver V-B

Winchester Churches Night Shelter
Thank you for your generous donations for the Shelter. We had a really interesting tour with the staff and Reverend Leon. The pupils who attended were a credit to the school and were given the opportunity to hold the Queen’s Award. They are planning to share what they found out during their visit with the rest of the school after Easter.

Attendance
Overall attendance for this spring term is 96.9%. The class with the best attendance is Kingfishers.

Attendance for the school year to date is also 96.9% and we would like to improve this next term. All the research shows a clear link between attendance and achievement so please try not to request leave of absence during term time. Routine medical appointments should be made, where possible, before and after the school day or during holidays.
**Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.** Aristotle

It is important that we nurture our children to fulfil their potential and be the best of themselves. It is this shared vision that permeates the school. So it was a great pleasure, last week, to share with the Local Authority how we have been designing our curriculum and how we build character in the pupils at Preston Candover.

Our new big enquiry topic questions are really challenging and developing some deep reflection in thinking and debate! We hope to showcase some of this learning in an exhibition in the summer term.

Resilience in learning and perseverance is definitely something that we have seen improve over the last few years at Preston.

**Living the Values Awards**
A number of children have been recognised for living the school values of Love, Hope and Justice by demonstrating virtues such as respect, service, compassion, kindness, courage, and fairness.

Well done to:
Harry S  Jack C  Max R
Molly G  Miriam C

**Building Learning Power (BLP) awards are given out for pupils demonstrating Resilience, Reflectiveness, Resourcefulness and Teamwork in their learning**

The following children have received BLP certificates:

Bertie W  Milly C  Sophia W
Amara K  Isabelle C  Annie M  Jody C

**Other achievements**
Maximilian R has achieved a distinction in his preliminary grade (acoustic guitar). Maximilian worked incredibly hard for this achievement so well done!

Amara K has been awarded a green Blue Peter badge for her written work about the SOS elephant sanctuary near Agra in India which she visited last year. Green Blue Peter badges are awarded for letters, pictures and work about the environment, conservation and nature. Congratulations Amara!

**Sport Relief**
Snow on Monday 19th March meant that we weren’t able to complete our Sport Relief mile. However a couple of days later the whole school joined together to run a mile around the school field to raise money for Sport Relief. There was a great sense of enjoyment and teamwork with the older children running with the younger ones and everyone encouraging each other to run, jog or walk around the field. £18 has been received in donations so far so if you can please remember to bring in your money after Easter we can send a healthy contribution to a very worthwhile cause.

**Anxiety book list**
I promised parents who attended our Anxiety in children and young people workshop, that we would forward Liz Herrick’s (Educational Psychologist) book list. I am sure that you will all find it useful so we have attached it for you in a separate document with this newsletter.

**NHS Child, Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**
CAMHS new website went live last week. There is some excellent support and information for professionals, parents and carers.

https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk

**Clubs**
After school clubs will start week commencing 23rd April.

**Story Wings**
A reminder for children to continue with Story Wings over the Easter break. A perfect opportunity to read!

**Outdoor play trail**
As you will know from our previous communications and newsletters, the PCSA have been busy raising funds for the timber trail. The cost of replacement equipment for the front playground trail, bonded ground cover and improvements to other areas e.g. butterfly area is close to £20,000.

We have made some repairs to the wooden play equipment and it has lasted well but it does need replacing. It would be wonderful if this could be replaced in the summer term.

I understand that PCSA fundraising currently stands at £ 4141.93 and they have set an ambitious fundraising target for £10,000 for the outdoor improvements this year.

The school has benefitted daily from the large touch screen in the hall, which was purchased using fundraising from last year. So thank you!
In case you know someone who might like to sponsor an item of outdoor play equipment, we have attached pictures of some of the items and costs. Please speak to me for further information or to the PCSA.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming the children on Monday 16th April, rested and ready for an exciting summer term!

Best wishes

Mrs. Simrit Otway
Headteacher

Easter holidays – 30th March to 13th April
Summer term starts – 16th April
Year 5 at the Royal Albert Hall – 23rd April
SATS Week Year 6 – w/c 14th May
KS1 and other year group assessments-w/c 14th May
Walk to School week – w/c 21st May
Summer half term – w/c 28th May
Back to school – 4th June
Year 1 phonics check w/c 11th June
Sports day – 5th June
Reserve sports day - 19th June
Global Awareness fortnight-June
Wrens class assembly – 29th June
Trailblazers week – w/c 9th July
KS1 Open Morning 10.40am to 11.40am – 10th July
KS2 Open Morning 10.40am to 11.40am – 12th July
Last day of summer term – 20th July
Inset day – 23rd July

Dates for your Diary

End of spring term – 29th March – 3.00pm finish
Preston Candover CE Primary School

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