



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents

Welcome to all our new Year R parents and a big welcome back to our Year 1 parents. We hope you all had a lovely summer.

Firstly, we would like to introduce the teachers who work in the Wrens Class. Mrs Cooke and Mrs Defferding job share the role of Wrens class teachers. Mrs Cooke works at the beginning of the week and Mrs Defferding works at the end of the week. We also have a learning support assistant– Miss Wilson in the mornings who is also a lunch time supervisor. In the afternoons Mrs Croombs will be supporting both the Wrens and Puffins class as a learning support assistant. Together our main priorities for this half term will be settling your child into the school routine, getting to know them and providing a happy, smooth transition from home to school to create a positive attitude towards learning.

Your child will come home with a red home- school communication book. The purpose of these books is as a useful form of communication between home and school. If there is anything you feel we need to know- such as if your child is going home to tea with another child or if they are not travelling on the school bus when they usually do so, please let us know through this book. It is really important if your child is usually on the bus, that you inform us if they are ever not going home on it as they will be registered automatically to go on the bus unless we are informed otherwise.

Your child will also start to bring home books to share and sound cards to learn. These books will be ones the children have chosen from our class book box- in the first stages of learning to read, the main focus is on using the pictures to retell the story, talking about the characters and the story and enjoying books together. Once a week we will also go to the school library and choose a book from there to bring home too. Your child will be bringing home a green reading record book where we record which books they have chosen to take home. To inform you further of how we teach reading in the Reception class we will be doing a presentation to Year R parents later on in the term and will send out details of this for you soon.

Our Year 1 children will be joining with Puffins for daily phonic sessions and will be moving onto Stage 2 of our Song of Sounds programme. They will also have weekly guided reading sessions within Wrens class where they will be reading a text together, and using the text as a focus for a writing activity to work on inference and deduction.

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Our class based topic this half term will be based around the big enquiry question “What Makes Me Special?” We will be exploring this concept through all areas of the EYFS and Year 1 curriculum.

A lot of our focussed activities will be based on different texts and this half term we will be using stories such as “Dogger” by Shirley Hughes and talk about our special and favourite toys, “Owl Babies” by Martin Waddell and “Titch” by Pat Hutchins to inspire talk about how things change over time and develop a sense of our personal history. As part of this we will talk about how we have changed since birth and it would be helpful if you could send a photo of your child as a baby together with a fairly recent photo so that we can make comparisons and see if we can tell who is who from the baby photo. We will see if children can match the baby to the child. All photos will be returned to you after half term, when our topic will change. For our Year 1 children could you send in a baby photo as the children will use their photos to write clues to see if others can “guess who” from the descriptions they will write of their present day selves. Year 1’s will be working on letter writing which we will be exploring through the text “A day at the animal post office.”

We would like to find out about the places we went to on holiday this year and make a class display about them. We would therefore appreciate a postcard or photograph of somewhere you have visited or spent a day out at during the holidays. Year 1 children will use these to write their own reports on what it was like there.

In maths we will be concentrating on counting, recognising numbers and ordering them to 10/20. We will also be sorting, matching and making repeating patterns. Year 1 children will be focusing on numbers to 20 and then to 100, problem solving involving addition and subtraction, shopping and coin values, measuring using both non -standard and standard units, recording methods using lists and tables and investigating properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Our science focus will be about our bodies, concentrating on our skeleton, naming the different parts of our body and how we use our amazing body in day to day life and what we can do with it. We will also incorporate this focus with art work within the classroom.

For Religious Education, our focus will be “Birthdays.” We will be discussing the traditions of birthday parties and the significance of birthday candles. If you have any cards or invitations at home that we could use as part of this focus, we would be grateful if you could send them in. Year 1 children will be creating their own invitations and we will be using the text “Kippers Birthday” to explore this with them.

We have 3 PE sessions a week for dance, gym and games. Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit into school on Monday morning. They will then bring it home at the end of the week for washing. They need a pair of trainers as part of their kit as we also use them for the Golden Mile which the whole school takes part in during some break times throughout the week.

Creatively we will paint pictures of ourselves, make a mobile for a baby, hand paint and make skeleton pictures. The children love making junk models so any boxes etc that you can send in to be recycled in this way would be greatly appreciated.

We will also be sending home a “wow” sheet for any “wow” moments your child may do at home:- for example being able to count the stairs, sorting shells they find on the beach, ride a bike for the first time, swim on their own etc. Your input also feeds into your child’s individual foundation stage profile so we would really welcome any significant moments you observe at home. The children enjoy sharing them with the class and we also have a class display to celebrate these moments.

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Tapestry accounts have now been transferred or set up for all the Year R children and you should have received an email notification to access it. If you have any queries about this, our topic or any other matters please don't hesitate to contact us.

Many Thanks.

Mrs M Cooke and Mrs S Defferding

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