



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to school for what is always a very busy but very exciting half term leading up to Christmas. Last half term the children settled well and have formed good relationships with each other and other children within our school family. They were very quick to pick up on our class and school routines and this half term will now be joining the rest of the school for collective worship each morning and morning break.

Our topic for this half term is 'Houses and Homes' with our big enquiry question being "what makes a house a home?" We will be exploring the children's ideas around this as well as finding out about the different types of homes we live in and about some of the different styles of homes around the world. We also plan to go a village walk to look at the different types of houses there are in Preston Candover. Our Year 1 children will be using simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment. After our village walk they will create their own maps to show the route we took and use their own symbols to represent the different types of houses we came across.

Literacy

Each year we will be join in with the "World Nursery Rhyme week" with their rhyme a day challenge. The focus rhymes for this year will be Baa Baa Black sheep, Down in the Jungle, Incy Wincy Spider, Row Row and Two Little Dicky Birds. As part of our topic we will be looking at non-fiction texts and talking about the characteristics of non-fiction books. We shall also carry out lots of drama and creative work around two well know stories 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Town Mouse and Country Mouse'. Year 1's will be also be exploring poetry using Michael Rosen's poem "Our house." They will also be creating their own acrostic poems. In their writing they will be working on leaving spaces between words, joining words and joining clauses using 'and', beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark and using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I.'

Phonics

We will continue with our phonics work, starting to put sounds together to make simple two and three letter words. We will continue to send out the phonics notes at the beginning of each week so that you know which sounds and words we are learning that week. Any work that you could do at

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home with your child would be beneficial, for example; sounding out words, asking children what sounds they can hear in words and playing 'I Spy'.

Year 1 children will continue to join Puffins for their phonic sessions and work on the Stage 2 song of sounds programme. Their phonic patterns and words they are focussing on each week will continue to be sent home as well as their spellings.

Mathematics

We will continue working with numbers, working on making the same totals in different ways and starting to record simple addition and subtraction number sentences. We will compare heights and lengths of objects and sequence objects according to their height or length. We will also introduce money- coin recognition and using coins in role play to pay for items. In shape we will be moving onto 3D shapes- naming them and talking about the characteristics of them. Year 1 children will be focusing on number and place value, finding halves and quarters of shapes, doubling and halving, using lists and tables to sort objects, investigating number bonds and solving problems involving addition and subtraction.

Understanding the world

We will look at homes from around the world and make comparisons between them. We will find out about the various materials that can be used to build houses and think about why some houses have a flat roof whilst others are pitched. We will be using the story of the 3 Little Pigs to carry out investigations about the strength of the materials the pigs used to build their homes. Year 1 children will be following the science national curriculum, focusing on everyday materials, identifying and describing physical properties of a variety of materials and comparing and grouping materials depending on these properties.

The focus for our RE this term will be The Church as God's house where we will be looking at the church in the village, talking about the characteristics of a church and what people do when they go to church. We will also explore the question "Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?" to develop our understanding of the Christmas story.

Children's Interests

Through our curriculum we look at the interests of the children and look to develop learning opportunities through these. Last half term the children were very engaged with the autumn trays. They used the conkers and pinecones to explore maths concepts such as counting and creating patterns as well as creating different channels to roll them down. They also enjoyed making up their own games, which we used to build on their maths and physical skills. We will be engaging with them in their play to find out where their interests lie this half term.

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Wow moments

Thank you to all those parents that have shared 'Wow' moments with us. It has been lovely to celebrate these achievements with your child and display them in our classroom. If your child achieves something special at home for example orders numbers, counts forwards or backwards, learns to swim, writes their name etc. please send in a 'Wow' slip, thank you. In addition to this you could upload any photos of special moments- such as a day out to your child's Tapestry account as we can share these at school too and the children really enjoy seeing themselves on our interactive whiteboard.

Ways to help at home

Here are some ideas for helping your child at home this half term.

- Sing familiar rhymes with your child and talk about the words in them that rhyme.
- Play an "I spy" rhyme version- eg "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with cat."
- Go on a "house hunt" and see how many different types of houses you can see when out and about and what is specific to that house type- eg what makes a bungalow a bungalow?
- Talk about the different types of materials used to build the houses you see when out and about- can you find ones with flint walls/a thatched roof etc

We will continue to add our weekly "time to talk focus" on Tapestry which will be related to the weeks learning in class.

The children will be using the school library from this next half term and will be bringing home a library book of their choice to share at home. Please can you remind your child to bring in their library book every Thursday so they can change it for a new one each week.

If you have any queries about our topic or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Cooke and Sarah Defferding

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