



# Preston Candover CE Primary School

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## Newsletter No. 9 – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an enriching and busy half term in school this Spring.

### STEM Week

6–15<sup>th</sup> March marked **British Science Week**, the national celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. This year’s theme, “Curiosity: what’s your question?”, tied brilliantly into our ongoing science learning, where pupils regularly explore, investigate and ask thoughtful questions about the world around them. Sparrows class investigated different fruits using all of their senses, accumulating in making fruit kebabs. Doves class explored how food waste contributes to global hunger by performing a blind taste test on typical vs ‘wonky’ and lesser purchased fruit and veg. Kingfisher Class used problem-solving and teamwork skills as engineers to tackle a real-life challenge faced by farming communities in Nepal, designing pulley systems, gear systems and tomato buggies to transport crops safely down the mountains. Robins class enjoyed creating recycled paper to learn more about the importance of recycling and sustainable materials.

Our pupils continue to build confidence, develop scientific thinking and nurture a genuine love of STEM throughout their lessons. You can find out more about our science curriculum here: [Preston Candover - Science curriculum](#)

### Easter Service at St Mary’s

The children in KS2 did a wonderful job leading the Easter church service along with Reverend Jennifer. The children sang beautifully accompanied by the church organ and pupils from Robins class shared their learning all about Easter Around the World.



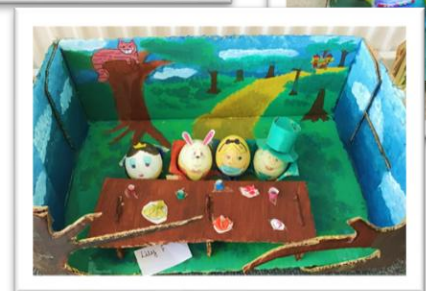
### Easter Egg Competition 2026!

We were delighted to see the classes awash with fabulous Alice in Wonderland themed Easter Egg submissions! We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the ways everyone has used eggs to display different aspects of the book.

As always, this was incredibly difficult to judge with so many *eggcellent* entries, well done to everyone who entered, you will all receive a special award of Fairtrade chocolate!

The winner from each class is as follows:

- Sparrows: Camille P
- Doves: Ella H
- Robins: Elodie S-B
- Kingfishers: Lily F



## Love Hope Justice

Encourage each other and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

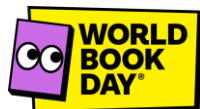


### **Roving Bookshop 24<sup>th</sup> March**

We were really pleased to welcome The Roving bookshop into school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The children were really excited to browse the amazing selection of books and choose some to buy. Thank you to everyone for supporting such a wonderful event and we hope the children are enjoying their new books at home.

### **World Book Day**

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March as a start to World Book day week the whole school took part in a live event: Global Food Stories with Michael Rosen and friends. The children got to enjoy stories from around the world and joined in the interactive event by creating their own story maps. Sparrows have been inspired from this event to carry on writing their own imaginative stories.



It was lovely to see everyone dressed up as different book characters on World Book day! Each class took part in different themed book activities and challenges throughout the day, including a book themed scavenger hunt and bringing in their favourite books to discuss and recommend to a friend. Thank you to all our families for supporting the day and helping to spark a lifelong love of reading. Keep enjoying those stories at home - every page makes a difference!



Well done to Orla and Max B, Kehlani, Penelope, Ellie-Rose and Jack, Verity, Florence, Anna, Caitlin and Rae who took part in our whole school extreme reading challenge and sent in photos of themselves reading in a range of different and unusual locations such as in a horse field and upside down!



### **Dodgeball 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

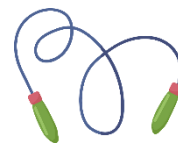
We took two teams to an after-school dodgeball event held at Amery Hill School. A total of 12 schools from across East Hampshire took part, and both of our teams played five fast-paced and exciting games each. Throughout the event, the children further developed their coordination, teamwork, and communication skills, while consistently demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and respect for others. We were

especially proud to see one of our teams achieve a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their pool.

### **Cross Country 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

We were very proud to see Sophie R and Harry V qualify for the county cross country final on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Down Grange where they made up a team of 12 representing East Hampshire. Each county across the whole of Hampshire took part in this and involved over 200 children coming together to represent their county. Both children competed really well and it is fantastic that Harry enjoyed it so much he wants to train to take part again next year as a Year 6.

### **Whole School Skipping Workshop 25<sup>th</sup> March**



The whole school enjoyed a fun-filled Skipping workshop day on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Each class took part in a session with a skipping coach, learning new skills and taking part in different skipping challenges. The day ended with a showcase of different skills where the children got to demonstrate what they had been learning. Just seeing the children achieve something new and watching their enthusiasm for each other as they demonstrated different skipping skills was a great way to celebrate the day. We were also all wowed when our coach demonstrated her skills and inspired to keep skipping. The number of children who are now skipping in the playground at breaktimes is wonderful to see!

### **Sparrows Visit from Reverend Wright**

Reverend Wright came in to school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March for a special visit to Sparrows class to talk about special clothes used in the Christian church. Reverend Jennifer talked about how we could recognise she is part of the church by what she was wearing. She brought in different clothes for us to try on and explore and taught Sparrows that different colours have different meanings in the church calendar such as a white stole is worn when there is a special event like a wedding or baptism. Reverend Wright told us that she has a special stole that is embroidered with things that are important to her. Back in class we then designed our own special stoles to show things that are important to us and are looking forward to showing them to Reverend Wright.

### **Curriculum at The Meadow**

Last week all classes each visited The Meadow, the school's outdoor learning space, to carry out science experiments and geographical exploration linked to their curriculum themes.



“Everything there from the bugs to the ever-growing trees is all beautiful. I am so grateful for the lovely creatures. Thank you for all the wildlife around me and this wonderful Earth that you have made for us to share with them. This experience has motivated me more to make a difference to the World so future Preston Candover School pupils can see the beauty of the meadow, like I do currently” - *Eloise T*

“When we go up to the Meadow I feel really safe because there is no one else up there apart from us. When I am up there I focus on nothing else but the wildlife, nature and the beautiful sunshine.” – *George W*

### Movie Night 25<sup>th</sup> March

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March nearly the whole school enjoyed an after school movie night, led by the PCSA, where they enjoyed popcorn and cosy cushions watching Zootropolis!

### Comic Relief 2026 – Make Funny for Money

Thank you to everyone who donated to this years Red Nose Day effort where the children all had the opportunity to share their favourite jokes with their classmates!

Together you raised £49.00 for Comic Relief.

### The Nest

We would like to let all parents know that booking for The Nest via Scopay is now open up to 2 days prior to the desired session (previously 4). Parents can book sessions themselves via Scopay up to 48 hours before the day, and any later will need to contact the school office. Please call us on 01256 389278 for same day bookings.

### After School Clubs Summer Term

SoccerSchools will be running a number of clubs for us next term and details of these, together with how to register your child can be found at the link below. Clubs start second week of term.

[www.soccerschools-uk.com/booking](http://www.soccerschools-uk.com/booking)

### Inset Day – 1<sup>st</sup> June

Please be aware that Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June is an Inset day. Summer term diary dates will be published on our school website after Easter.

### Absence Requests – Appointments

Please remember to attach your medical appointment cards to your absence request forms as we require evidence in order for these absences to be authorised.

### Attendance

Well done to Robins class for achieving the highest attendance this term!

Robins	97.51%
Sparrows	97.35%
Kingfishers	97.03%
Doves	95.65%

A reminder that all children should be in school ready for morning registration at 8:45am. The gates are open at 8:40am so children can be dropped off from then.

All pupil absence due to illness must be clearly accounted for by parents by phoning on the first and subsequent days of absence, no later than 9:30am.

### Reminder: No toys or any other personal items from home

We kindly remind families that pupils should not bring toys, games or any non-essential school items into school. These items can be distracting in the classroom and may get lost or damaged during the day. Additionally, mobile phones and smart watches are not permitted in school. Thank you for helping us keep our learning environment focused, calm and safe for everyone.

### Leader in Me (7 Habits)

#### Leadership Awards

Charlie K	Billy S	James P
Phoebe S	Elsie B	Alfie H
Tobiloba A	Persephone L-H	
Lucia G	Alfred F	



#### Living the Values Awards

Children who have been recognised for living the school values of Love, Hope and Justice.

Geordie D	Bridget W	Matilda M
Violet S	Theodore S-B	Evelina Z
Kehlani W	Rae W	Cressida G



Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you in the Summer term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Simrit Otway  
Headteacher



**Dates for your Diary**

**30<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays (school closed)**

**8<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 Bikeability**

**W/C 11<sup>th</sup> May – SATs week**

**1<sup>st</sup> June – INSET DAY (school closed)**

**18<sup>th</sup> June – whole school and class photos**

**26<sup>th</sup> June – Winchester Cathedral Leavers Service**

**2025/26 Inset Days**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026**

*A list of 2025-26 Hampshire and school dates, including holidays can be found on the school website.*

