



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Newsletter No. 1 – 7th September 2026

Dear Parents and carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our children and families. We are also delighted to welcome some new families to our school community. I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful summer and quality time with your family.



The Headteacher's newsletters are important for sharing key information and updates with you and they are also available on the school website.

Vision, ethos and values

Through our ethos and provision, we nurture attitudes of respect and care for one another. We are proud to develop leadership and character in our pupils through our 7 Habits programme which equips our pupils with skills they carry through life.

Children thrive when the relationship between home and school is built on trust and mutual respect. If you have any questions, please do speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you wish to speak to the Headteacher, please contact the School Office if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Mrs Meier, our Inclusion Leader, is available to assist with any SEN queries and additional support.

Our School Communication Policy has further detail and can be found on our school website.

Home School Agreement

Attached is a copy of the Home School Agreement. We ask that new parents read through this agreement carefully, and recommend that returning parents read through as a refresher on your relationship with the school.

Attendance and Absence

We know that:

- children who attend school regularly do better academically
- even small amounts of absence can affect learning over time
- being in school supports children's wellbeing, confidence and friendships

From the start of this academic year we will be enforcing our absence policy which is based on county and DfE guidance. We encourage all parents to read through this on our website.

The school **gates and doors open at 8:40.**

Please never leave your child unattended on the school premises, before this time, even if a gate is open e.g. for other visitors.

Registration is between 8.45-8.55 am in each classroom. A child arriving after this time will be marked as late. Any child arriving after 9.15am will be recorded as formally Late (After Register Closes) which will be recorded as an Unauthorised Absence.

If your child is not well enough to attend school, please call the office absence line before 9.30am with the reason. If we do not hear from you we are obligated to call you. You must inform the office directly.

If you are requesting a leave of absence we ask that you fill in an Absence Request Form (available at our front desk or digitally to print off on our website) and return it to the school office no later than 10 days prior to the absence. This form will need to be seen by our Headteacher. Only exceptional absences can be authorised by the Headteacher. 10 or more unauthorised absences in a period of 10 weeks **will** be subject to a penalty notice as per county guidelines.

Love Hope Justice



Please ensure that any routine doctors or dental appointments are made for school holidays or after the school day.

A list of reasons that will not be authorised can be found on our school website. More information on absences can be found on our school website [here](#) under Parents > Attendance.

Whether your absence will be approved or not you **must** complete a form and return it to the school office. The school must know the whereabouts and reason for any pupil absence for safeguarding.

Thank you for working with the school to encourage good attendance habits.

No Nuts

As a nut-aware school, we ask all families to check lunch boxes and snacks carefully and ensure that no nut products are brought into school.



For children with nut allergies, exposure can cause a serious and potentially life-threatening reaction.

To help keep everyone safe, children should also not share food or drinks with others. Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for all pupils.

Home/School Communications

Please use your child's Home-School Communication Book for important messages, including collection arrangements, and remind your child to show it to their teacher. Emails are not constantly monitored throughout the school day.

Snacks

EY and KS1 (up to year 2 pupils) are offered a free piece of fruit in the morning. KS2 pupils may bring in a healthy, nut free snack e.g. fruit or vegetable sticks.

Please do not send in sweets or cakes with your children as birthday treats as we have a number of children with allergies.

Dogs

A polite reminder that no dogs should be brought onto the school site during the school day, unless they are guide dogs. Please show consideration for children who may be wary of animals. If you need to have a dog outside the school gates they should always be on a lead and held carefully so they do not jump up at pupils.

Smoke-free

Please remember that our school is a smoke-free site, which includes the use of vapes and e-cigarettes. We kindly ask all parents and visitors to respect this policy when dropping off or collecting children to help maintain a healthy environment for everyone.

Parking and Crossing

Please park considerately and avoid blocking driveways or the yellow zigzag markings outside the school. We also encourage everyone to use the School Crossing Patrol each morning and afternoon, as keeping our children safe is our top priority.

Curriculum Newsletters

Your child's Class Curriculum Newsletters were sent out this week. Please keep an eye out for these at the start and end of each term for more information about your child's learning.

Photos & Social Media

An important reminder to all parents that photos or videos of the children taken at various school events are **not** to be shared or distributed online as a number of our pupils' families have not given consent.

School Uniform

Our school uniform has been carefully chosen to help children feel part of the school community and give a strong sense of identity and unity. It is important that additional accessories such as jewellery, colourful hair bands, nail varnish/make up and fake tattoos are not worn. Hair that is shoulder length or longer should always be tied back.

Earrings are not recommended; however small studded earrings are allowed for older pupils who are able to remove them as necessary. Earrings should not be worn on PE days. If your child has recently had their ears pierced, please provide plasters or tape from home.

Last year, we had an excessive amount of unnamed uniform, making it difficult for pupils to find items. Please ensure that all school uniform is clearly named, including bags, outdoor coats and water bottles. We recommend using **stitched or iron-on labels** for clothing, as names written with pens wash out over time.

We encourage all children to use analogue watches as it can help them to learn to read the time well. Smartphones/smart devices e.g. smart watches are not permitted on site.

PE Kit

Please make sure your child has a PE kit with them every day and every item should be named. Pupils may wear plain, dark jogging bottoms outside when the weather is colder.

School dinners

The cost of a school dinner is £3.20 for children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). Please ensure you are in credit and pay in advance as the school adopts a strict no debt for longer than one day policy relating to school meals.

School lunches are cooked per order each day and the cut off time for ordering is 9:30am. If your child will be late due to an appointment, please order in advance or provide a packed lunch.

If you have low household income in EY, KS1 and KS2 or would like to apply for free school meals in KS2, please see how to apply and all the information you need at the link below: -

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>

Applying for a Year R School Place

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023, they will be eligible to start school in September 2027. Please be aware of the following key dates:

Applications open	Deadline for applications	Notification date for on-time applicants
1 November 2026	15 January 2027	30 April 2027

Applying for a Secondary School Place

If your child is currently in Year 6, you will need to apply for a Year 7 place in a secondary school for September 2027. Applications can be submitted [online](#). Please be aware of the following key dates:

Applications open	Deadline for applications	Notification date for on-time applicants
7 September 2026	31 October 2026	15 March 2026

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents

We are inviting new parents on October 8 and a morning in November for the opportunity to tour the school and meet with the Leadership team and see the school in action for September admissions. Please contact the school office to book a place.

Extended Day Care

We run extended day care before and after the school day in the form of 'Early Birds' and 'The Nest'. Our morning club Early Birds runs on

Tuesday and Wednesday, from 8:00am until the start of the school day.

Our after school club 'The Nest' runs Monday to Thursday with sessions from 3:10-4:10, 4:10-5:00 or 3:10-5:00.

More information about signing up, booking, and attendee guidance can be found on our school website under Extended Day Care [here](#).

After School Sports Clubs

These will be starting next week for this term. Please make sure you contact the following outside providers, if you wish your child to be offered a place: -

www.soccerschools-uk.com/booking

Last term, Soccer School cancelled the Monday club due to low enrolment. A minimum of 10 children is required for the club to run. If you are interested in joining, please contact Soccer School directly at admin@soccerschools-uk.com or complete their contact form: <https://www.soccer-schools-uk.com/contact/>

School Photographs

Individual pupil and sibling school photographs will be taken during the day on **Thursday 18th September**- please make sure the date is in your diary.

Bikeability

It is important that during their time at our school, children are able to learn life skills such as how to ride a bicycle safely. So, Year 6 will be participating in [Bikeability](#) a cycle training program. It will equip children with the practical skills and confidence needed to ride safely on today's roads. Deadline for parents to [register](#) is the **14th September 2026**.

Swimming

Swimming lessons will be starting in September for Year 6's. Swimming is a vital skill to have. The school will be paying for the lessons but would appreciate a donation to the cost of transport. A letter will be sent to Year 6 parents with details w/c 7th September.

Sparrows Phonics Reading Meeting

For reception parents Mrs Cooke will be holding a brief presentation on 22 September to explain the Little Wander phonics scheme. We hope the reception parents will be able to join us to learn about the scheme.

The school team

Senior Leadership Team	Headteacher	Mrs Otway
	Assistant Head	Mrs Hulme
	Inclusion leader /SENCo	Mrs Meier
Class teachers	Sparrows Years R/I	Mrs Cooke
	Woodpeckers Years 2/3	Miss Wells
	Robins Years 4/5	Miss Morgan
	Kingfishers Year 6	Mrs Meier
Learning Support team	EY/KS1 KS1/2	Mrs Croombs Miss Last Mrs Wilson Mrs Aslam Mrs John
Admin and Site Support team	Admin team	Ms Crompton Mrs Dickey-Collas
	Site Manager	Mr Larkins

Dates for your Diary

16th Sept – Swimming lessons commence Yr. 6

17th Sept – Individual School Photos

22nd Sept – Phonics reading presentation Yr R

21st Sept – 4th Oct – Fairtrade Fortnight

2026/27 Inset Days

Further INSET dates to be confirmed

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 4th January

Wednesday 21st July

A list of 2026-27 Hampshire school dates, including holidays can be found on the school website.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Miss Morgan who has joined our team as class teacher for Robins and our new LSAs Mrs Aslam and Mrs John. I would also like to welcome Mrs Watson, specialist music teacher from HMS who will teach music to Kingfishers and Robins.

We are keen that your child is settled, enjoying school life and thriving. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Mrs Simrit Otway
Headteacher