



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Newsletter No. 1 – 6th September 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

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

The atmosphere in the school has been superb as we start a new academic year. In collective worships this week we have been reflecting on what community means to us. What makes us the same as everyone in our community and what makes us different? And, how we can all help to make sure everyone feels welcome, happy, safe and secure.

Vision, ethos and values

Through our ethos and provision, we actively nurture attitudes of respect and care for one another. We develop leadership and character in our pupils through our 7 Habits programme.

We are keen that your child is settled, enjoying school life and learning.

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. I am always happy to speak to parents informally regarding any questions or concerns you may have. I will often be outside at the start of the school day and look forward to getting to know you. Alternatively, please contact the School Office if you would like to make an appointment for 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.

Attached is a copy of the Home School Agreement. We thought it would be useful for everyone to have a copy at the start of the new school year.

Safeguarding

The new school term began with Safeguarding training for all staff during our INSET day. If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. The Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Otway, Mrs Hulme and Mrs Meier.

Important reminders

An important reminder that we are a **nut free school**. Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction, therefore we cannot have nuts in school. Please check that you have no nut products in lunch boxes or snacks brought into school. Thank you for your cooperation in this as the safety of our children is paramount.

Snacks

EY and KS1 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.

Love Hope Justice



Dogs

A polite reminder that no dogs should be brought onto the school site during the school day, unless they are guide dogs. Thank you.

Smoke-free

We have a smoke-free school policy and this includes vapes so please do bear that in mind when dropping off or collecting your child.

Curriculum Newsletters

Please keep an eye out for your child's class curriculum newsletter for information about the learning.

Teacher Communications

Important information and messages for teachers should be written in your child's Home School Communication book, including any end of day collection information you wish to share. Please also remind your child to show their teacher. This is much more effective than emails which are not constantly monitored.

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. Shoulder length and long hair should be 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.

Mobile phones, wearable technology and recording devices and cameras should not be brought into school. Smart watches are not permitted as they are an unnecessary distraction.

Analogue watches are encouraged and support the children in learning to read time.

Please may we ask that **all school uniform is named**, including, bags, outdoor coats and any water bottles that are brought into school.

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.

Reminders from the office

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.



The cost per week is £16.

School lunches are cooked per order each day and the cut off time for ordering is 9:30. So if your child is 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>

Reporting Absence

It is a legal requirement that we record all absences. If your child is ill we ask that you call the office absence line before 9.30am. If we do not hear from you we are obligated to call you.

If you are requesting a leave of absence ahead of time we ask that you fill in an Absence Request Form (available at our front desk or digitally to print off on our website). This form will need to be approved by our Head teacher to be authorised. 10 or more unauthorised absences will be subject to a penalty notice.

Applying for a Year R School Place

If you have a child who was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 they will be eligible to start school in September 2025. Please be aware of the following key dates:

Applications open	Deadline for applications	Notification date for on-time applicants
1 November 2024	15 January 2025	16 April 2025

Please see attached flyer with details of our upcoming open morning for prospective parents.

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 2025. Please be aware of the following key dates:

Applications open	Deadline for applications	Notification date for on-time applicants
9 September 2024	31 October 2024	3 March 2025

Early Birds Club

A reminder to parents that we have an Early Birds club before school between 8 – 8.35am. Please contact the school office should you wish to make use of this.

After School Clubs

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

www.soccerschools-uk.com/booking

After school care survey

We are keen to improve our after-school care offer to parents as we appreciate that parents may need extended childcare after the school day. We are working hard to get a viable offer established and it would be very helpful to know what numbers of children would like to attend. Please complete the following survey by mid-day on **Tuesday 10th September**. Your support is greatly appreciated.

<https://forms.office.com/e/rm5d0mtZU2>

School Photographs

Individual pupil and sibling school photographs will be taken during the day on Tuesday 24th September – please make sure the date is in your diary.

The school team

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

Leader In Me (7 Habits) Leadership Awards

Azalea N Wilfred W
Cressida G
Rae H



Living the Values Awards

Children who 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.



Ayan R
Zahra B
Fergus R

We look forward to another successful year of high quality learning, achievement and enjoyment.

Best wishes

Mrs Simrit Otway
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Parent Consultations: 15th + 16th October

Prospective Parents Open Morning: 15th October

2024/2025 Inset Days

2nd September 2024

14th October 2024

6th January 2025

22nd July 2025

+ 1 TBC