



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Newsletter No. 9 – 13th February 2025

Dear Parents and carers,

Spring term is now well under way and we are pleased to see how well the children are engaging with their learning. Spring and new growth is starting to be seen around school, reminding us of the new opportunities that lie ahead.

Leadership Portfolios

We are very excited to be embedding our Leadership Habits across the school and will be supporting the children with Leader in Me portfolios as they progress through the school. This year, your voluntary contribution supports the cost of these extra provisions that enrich our children's educational experience and development beyond the National Curriculum. Please do consider making the donation; we would not ask you if we did not feel it was important. We will reach out individually with the cost of the portfolios if you have not contributed to the annual donation.



Orienteering-exciting news!

This term, we have invested in the creation of bespoke mapping of the school grounds and orienteering markers have been installed for courses and challenges.

The whole school took part in an exciting day of orienteering in January. The children loved using a range of cross-curricular skills such as fieldwork, using compass directions, co-ordination, collaboration and teamwork.

We were delighted to see the children living the school values and leadership habits during the challenges. All of this whilst getting lots of exercise and fresh air. We recognise how good it is for our mental health to be outdoors during daylight hours.

Well done to Blue House who won the House challenge!

Orienteering and map reading



Parents Evening

It was fantastic to have close to 100% attendance at the parent consultation evenings this week. We hope you found it insightful to have a discussion with class teachers and also see your child's progress in their learning.

World Religion Day – 20th January

On World Religion Day Kingfisher's class were focussing on five different religions which were Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism. We got put in to groups and each group got a religion to make a poster about. All of the teams were focussing on the key elements that were important to prayer and reflection in the religion that they were studying.

In Robins class they were writing all about Sikhism which was very fascinating to learn about. In Woodpeckers they were making different symbols to represent Buddhism in different ways. We were impressed to see such creative representations. Sparrows learned about the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi, a celebration of the birth of the Khalsa, where five men were baptised by Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji. They were given a new surname, Singh, which means lion, a tradition to this day with

Love Hope Justice

baptised Sikh boys being given the surname Singh and girls Kaur (lioness, princess or leader). Sparrows then made their own lion masks to represent this festival.

Rupert and Minnie



Early Birds (AM Club) and The Nest (PM Club)

A separate email was sent this afternoon asking parents to fill out a short survey on our After School Club and the viability of running a Thursday session. If everyone could take one minute to fill it in and help us understand demand we would be very appreciative. The deadline to complete is Friday 14th February at 12:00pm.

We would also like all parents to know that we have made booking on Scopay for our morning Early Birds club available for everyone. The session runs from 8:00am to the start of the school day and healthy snacks are provided. There is a limit of 5 children per session so please book in advance to save a space.

Please also consider booking The Nest sessions for the second half of Spring over half term.

Athletics

On Wednesday 5th February 7 children from Year 5 and 6 came to an after school sportshall athletics event at Perins with 4 other schools from across East Hampshire. Everyone took part in a combination of field and track events. For the field events the children competed in a standing long jump, speed bounce, chest pass, target throwing and javelin challenge. They then took part in track events which consisted of a 1 lap relay, then a 2 lap relay followed by a whole team relay. The children really entered into the spirit of the event with the girls joining with the boys in order to make a team for the relay!

Kingfishers Careers Fair

On the 24th of January 2025, Kingfisher class were very lucky to attend a Careers fair in school. It was incredibly interesting for the pupils and staff to learn about what other people do in their careers. We

enjoyed watching their presentation, seeing the props they brought along and asking questions. It has really inspired us and changed some of views and ambitions for the future. The professionals that presented were a Town designer and planner, Marketing Director, Journalist, Photographer, Insights Manager, and Passenger and Station Analyst for Network Rail. Kingfishers made questionnaires for all the parents that were able to take part so we could find out more about their jobs and some of the questions were: Do you need a qualification to do your job? Do you travel in your job? If you weren't in this career, what career path would you have followed? And what inspired you to do this job? We are extremely grateful to the parents who volunteered their time and for giving resources to the children, it has made a huge difference.

Sophie and Olivia (Kingfisher)

Robins Celebration of Learning

Robins class was delighted to be joined by their parents on Friday 17th January to demonstrate their recent learning of nonsense poetry using rhyming schemes, types of stanzas and nonsense vocabulary. The children enjoyed working together with their parents to create their own rhyming schemes. Thank you all for coming!



Year 6-7 Instrumental/vocal transition

Hampshire Music Education Hub is keen to support children's transition to secondary school and to encourage their continued musical development. The Music Hub are therefore asking all Y6 parents to complete a Google Form requesting information regarding instrumental learning. The form will facilitate communication between you and your child's first choice secondary school, in order to enable a smooth transition from Y6 to Y7.

This form is simple and quick to complete. Please note, the form is for ALL Y6 parents to complete, not just those whose children currently learn an instrument.



Please find below the link to the Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwgAlmFezaEc0euXYqsl3ciQrSijUNSKw-ggDe8VrCbSsa3w/viewform?usp=sharing>

Absences

Please may we remind all parents that absence request forms must be returned to the school office at least 7 days prior to the requested date(s) in order for the Headteacher to review. It is vital, as part of our robust safeguarding procedures, that

we are made aware of any planned absence well in advance. Term time holidays cannot be approved.

May we also remind parents that, as per policy, pupil's absence due to illness must be reported to the office absence line on **each day** that they are not in school. We will contact you if we have not heard from you.

Tissues

Please may we ask that each child bring in a box or packet of tissues that the teachers can keep in class for use by the children. Thank you for your support in this.

Childrens Mental Health Week

We have been celebrating Children's Mental Health week launched by children's mental health charity, Place2Be. Pupils joined children from lots of other schools and participated in a live assembly to find out more about the theme for this year which is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. It is so important we understand what makes us tick, our likes and dislikes, strengths, fears, hopes and dreams. Our emotions play a key role in telling us just that, and being aware of how to listen to and express ourselves is a major part of building self-awareness. It is through knowing ourselves and speaking with others that we can build resilience, grow, and develop. Children have continued to explore this theme throughout last week in their classes, completing activities and discovering more about themselves.



PACE- Parent and Carer Events

Please see attached useful information about a range of useful and free sessions for parents run by experts in their field. The sessions are to help parents and carers to gain more confidence and manage potential issues or concerns about your child. Topics include eating difficulties, trauma recovery, anxiety and looking after yourself to support your child.

School-Home Values

This half term the children have been thinking about the values of humility and courage. Please find attached an activity and story all about the value of Courage.

Leader in Me (7 Habits)

Leadership Awards

Freddie W	Billy M	Elsie B
Cressida G	Gabriel R	Rocco R
Hannah B	Leila P	Poppy D



Eloise T	Tobiloba A	Azalea N
Eloise P	Isla H	Camilla G
Thalia J	Henry P	Ella H
Hermione A-S	Hannah B	Jack W
Mavis W	Matilda S	Hestia G

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.



Freddy F	Fergus R	Charlotte H
Ayda H	Sophie L	Jamie B
Walter F	Gigi N	

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break.

With best wishes

Mrs Simrit Otway
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

6th March – World Book Day

12th March – Year 5/6 Netball @ Perins

19th March – Kingfisher Class Orchestra

Unwrapped

20th March – Woodpeckers class Gilbert White trip

25th March – Year 5/6 Handball @ Perins

28th March – National Skipping Day

2024/25 Inset Days

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

+1 day TBC

A list of 2024-25 Hampshire school dates, including holidays can be found on the school website.