



# Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: 01256 389278

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Dear Parents and Carers,

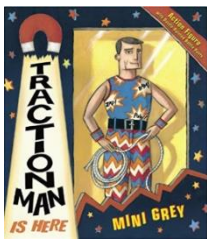
Welcome back to an exciting year at Preston Candover! We hope your summer was restful and the children are returning refreshed; Ready to dive straight into their Year 1 and 2 learning. We look forward to what this year in Doves Class brings.



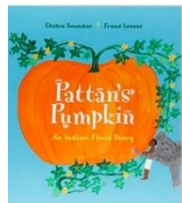
**Our Big Enquiry Question for the first half term is 'Can toys stand the test of time?'** which will be driven by our English, History, Science and Art topics as they are all centred around the theme of toys.

**Our Big Enquiry Question throughout the second half of the term is 'How can we explore, build and improve our local area?'** which will be driven by our Geography and DT topics where we learn about human and physical geography in Preston Candover.

## English



While enjoying Traction Man by Mini Grey, children will have fun practising capital letters, full stops, conjunctions, and writing in the third person. They'll unleash their creativity by making their own action-packed comic strips! With Little Red and the Big Bad Editor by Rebecca Kraft Rector, they'll discover how editing makes their writing shine.



Inspired by the wordless book Flashlight by Lizi Boyd, children will create imaginative flashlight-themed poems. They'll then dive into Pattan's Pumpkins, an Indian legend, sparking lively discussions about different cultures, myths, and storytelling traditions.



## Phonics and Spelling

### Year 1

Year 1 will review Phase 3 and 4 phonics before moving on to Phase 5, learning alternative graphemes and new tricky words. Daily sessions will support reading and writing across the curriculum. In Autumn Term 2, they will continue developing Phase 5 knowledge to build confidence and fluency.

### Year 2

Year 2 will begin by reviewing Phase 5 alternative graphemes and tricky words through daily phonics sessions. In Autumn Term 2, they will move on to the 'Bridge to Spelling' unit, applying their phonics knowledge to learn spelling rules, such as when to use /ck/ instead of c or k.

## Maths

In the first half term, Doves class will enjoy hands-on place value activities, counting to 100, and exploring tens and ones. They'll develop their understanding of addition and subtraction, practising number bonds and different methods, plus a short measuring unit. These activities lay strong foundations for future maths.

In the second half term, children will learn to tell time to the hour, half past, and quarter past/to. They'll apply addition and subtraction skills with coins, then explore fractions, odd/even numbers, and counting in 5s and 10s—building vital problem-solving skills.

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## **RE (Religious Education)**

Children will explore 'Belonging' through Judaism, focusing on Shabbat, religious stories, and places of worship that foster connection and inclusion, including special workshops with a guest speaker! They will also study journeys in the Christian Nativity story, learning about Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and wise men, and be introduced to Advent as a time of waiting, preparation, and celebration of Jesus' extraordinary birth in order to answer the question 'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?'

## **Science**

In the first half term, children will explore how materials change and their properties, investigating materials like wood, plastic, metal, and cardboard through hands-on tests to determine suitability for toys. Later, they will study forces, learning how pushes and pulls affect motion, causing objects to roll, slide, or bounce, and how force changes speed and direction, building a strong foundation in physical science.

## **History**

In the first half of Autumn Term, children will explore how toys have changed over time by comparing old and new toys. Using photos, artefacts, and family interviews, they'll investigate materials, technology, and safety, developing chronological vocabulary and understanding how their lives differ from children in the past. Please look out for correspondence of an invite to parents and grandparents to come in a speak to our class about toys from the past!

## **Geography**

After history, children will study their local area, focusing on the geography of their school and surroundings. They will identify human and physical features using geographical vocabulary, practise mapping with symbols and keys, and use locational language. A local walk will help them observe and record landmarks to deepen their understanding.

## **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic)**

Children will explore special people and family differences, learning about love, care, and speaking to trusted adults if worried. They'll also discover their unique qualities, similarities with others, and learn correct names for body parts, including private areas, fostering respect, self-awareness, and understanding of personal boundaries.

## **Art**

Children will explore texture through the theme of toys, inspired by artist Don Freeman. They will practice mark-making techniques to create observational drawings and paintings of a teddy, then make textured clay models. Throughout the unit, they'll compare and reflect on their work, developing their artistic skills and personal preferences.

## **DT (Design Technology)**

Children will learn about structures by designing and building a freestanding bridge with a moving slider. They will explore mechanisms and joining techniques, then create and test their bridges for strength and function. Finally, they will evaluate their designs, reflecting on successes and areas for improvement.

## **Computing**

Children will learn basic computer skills, including typing and using a mouse, while focusing on e-safety and responsible technology use. They will also explore data handling by creating, organizing, and comparing data sets, learning to identify reliable information and navigate the internet safely and respectfully.

## **Music**

Children will develop listening skills by feeling the pulse and internalizing the beat, building rhythm. Later, they will focus on dynamics, learning about loud and quiet sounds, and practise singing with good posture and warm-ups to prepare confidently for nativity performances and musical expression.

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## PE (Physical Education)

PE sessions occur twice weekly. In the first half term, children will develop skills like throwing, catching, bouncing, kicking, and dribbling through games, focusing on teamwork, basic tactics, and game rules. They'll also enhance coordination and creativity in dance by exploring rhythm, timing, and movement inspired by toys.

In the second half term, children will build on invasion game skills with controlled passing, dodging, and marking, while learning gymnastics skills like travelling, balancing, and creating sequences. They will use feedback to improve performance, boosting confidence and physical awareness.

## Home Learning

The children will be given weekly home learning. **Home learning will be given on Fridays and should be handed in on or before the following Thursday.** Home learning sheets will be stuck into children's home learning books. As these are provided by school, children are expected to treat and care for the home learning books with respect as they would any books at school. Children will be given maths and English home learning on alternative weeks.

Children will receive weekly spellings and **spelling tests will take place on Fridays.** Year 1 Children will receive a phonics sheet including the graphemes, words, tricky words and sentences they have practiced writing in their phonics sessions the previous week. Children will be assigned a Little Wandle reading book which you can access online on Collins e-books. Your child's login should be glued into the inside cover of their reading diaries. Please ensure you record each time you have read with your child in their reading diary as it helps us understand their progress to see how often they are reading. As a reminder, we suggest a minimum of 3 reads a week to help develop your child's fluency- the more the better!

Children will also bring home a library book which will not necessarily match their phonics stage, but encourage reading for enjoyment. **Doves library day will be a Thursday,** please ensure your child's library book is in their bag to be returned on that day.

## General Reminders

Please ensure your child has full PE kit (white top, red shorts, dark, long bottoms appropriate for PE outside and plain trainers with socks.) **Children should bring PE kits in on Monday and take them home on Fridays. Our PE days will be Monday and Thursday.** Long hair should always be tied up using plain hair accessories. Children should not have nail polish or 'tattoos.' Year 2s are encouraged to bring in their own pencil cases and equipment. Pencil cases should be thin as we will be encouraging the children to keep them in school, in their trays. It is essential that the children prioritise equipment that will be useful during every day sessions (writing pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber and ruler.) This helps the children practice our leadership habits 2 and 3 and maximise their learning time. Finally, please ensure school bags do not have keyrings or attached toys. For more information please see our general school newsletter. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

As you can see, we've got a jam packed first term back! We're all so excited to get stuck in and we hope you are too!

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Wells  
Doves Class Teacher

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