



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Newsletter No. 1 – 5th September 2025



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 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.

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 thriving.

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 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.

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.

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 Hulme, Mrs Meier and Mrs Otway.

Attendance and Absence

It is a legal requirement that we record all absences.

From the start of this academic year, we will be strongly enforcing our absence policy and we encourage all parents to read through. The updated policy will be on our website shortly.

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

If your child is not well enough to attend school, please call the office absence line before 9.30am. 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 approved by our Head teacher to be authorised. 10 or more unauthorised absences in a period of 10 weeks **will** be subject to a penalty notice.

Love Hope Justice



LeaderinMe



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

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 purposes.

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

No Nuts

An important reminder that we are a **nut aware 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.



Home/School 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.

Snacks and Water

EY and KSI 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.

Please send your child to school with a named water bottle. Their water bottle should contain water only; no juice, squash, or fizzy drinks

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.

Parking and Crossing

Please make sure that you are parking safely and not parking over the driveway or yellow zigzag outside our school. We would like to remind everyone to please make use of our Crossing Patrol every morning and afternoon; safety is of the utmost importance.

Curriculum Newsletters and website

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 learning. Do look at the school website for further information about the school curriculum.

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. Smartphones/smart devices are not permitted to be used on site.

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.

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 ensure that **all school uniform is named**, including, bags, outdoor coats and any water bottles that are brought into school. We will not be keeping unnamed uniform for any longer than a week. After this time, it will be removed.

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.

Pencil cases

We find the children take great pride and learn from taking responsibility for their own belongings and it supports them in being prepared. The school provides pencils and handwriting writing pens and will always have spare stationery.

For September we ask that all children in KS2 have a named pencil case, small enough to fit into a tray drawer and on their desk.

The following items would be helpful:

- 5 to 6 colouring pencils including primary colours.
- Writing pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener canister
- Small ruler
- Glue stick

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 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 they will be eligible to start school in September 2026. Please be aware of the following key dates:

Applications open	Deadline for applications	Notification date for on-time applicants
1 September 2025	15 January 2026	16 April 2026

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
8 September 2025	31 October 2025	2 March 2026

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 with 5 spaces max.

Our after-school club 'The Nest' runs Monday to Thursday.

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

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.

The school team

Senior Leadership Team		
	Headteacher	Mrs Otway
	Acting Deputy Head	Mrs Hulme
	Acting Assistant Head/Inclusion leader /SENCo	Mrs Meier
Class teachers	Sparrows Year R	Mrs Cooke
	Doves Years 1/2	Miss Wells
	Robins Years 3/4	Mr Aston
	Kingfishers Years 5/6	Mrs Meier
Learning Support team	EY/KS1 KS1/2	Mrs Croombs Miss Watson Miss Last Mrs Wilson Mrs Folan
Admin and Site Support team	Admin team	Ms Crompton Miss Howard
	Site Managers	Mr Larkins Mr Bogati

Dates for your Diary

18th Sept – Individual School Photos

22nd Sept – 5th Oct – Fairtrade Fortnight

2025/26 Inset Days

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

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

Headteacher Secondment

We hope that you have seen the letter explaining that Mrs Otway is supporting another school as Interim Headteacher for three days a week this term. On those days, Mrs Hulme and Mrs Meier will be supporting the school operationally. The same high standards that we have embedded at Preston Candover School will continue as normal.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Mr Bogati who has joined our team as Site Manager alongside Mr Larkins.

Thank you

We would like to extend a big thank you to Ron and David, our neighbours, for very kindly cutting the hedge at the back of the school.

We look forward to another successful year of working with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Simrit Otway
Headteacher