



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: 01256 389278

Email: admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway



Newsletter No. 6 – 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is something very special and magical about schools at Christmas time. The Nativity and Carol Service were both delightful and it was wonderful that so many parents were able to join us. A huge well done to the children for learning the actions, readings, prayers and carols so confidently and beautifully.



We know how powerful messages such as 'well done', 'thank you' and 'congratulations' are in boosting mood. In the best schools, this creates a powerful circle of encouragement. People of all ages like to be recognised and recognition fosters belonging, consideration for others and a willingness to go the extra mile.

A big well done to the pupils who consistently try their best every day; thank you to parents who support the school with your positive messages and thank you to our staff team who go above and beyond for our school. Last year we consulted all of our pupils who unanimously chose the following words as part of our school vision, **'Encourage each other and build each other up.'** A great choice.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Once again the school was awash with colour for this years Christmas Jumper Day. All together we raised a total of £100.00 for Save the Children, thank you for your support once again. The children all had a wonderful time eating their delicious Christmas lunch too!



School Disco

On Wednesday 10th December, the school held a Christmas disco. Thank you to the PCSA for organising. The children all had a fantastic time dancing, singing, and playing games at their respective KS1/2 discos. We loved seeing them have so much fun!



Christmas Hamper Raffle

We are delighted to share that the winners of the Hamper raffles are:

Multicolour Hamper (Sparrows): Isla H
Green and Gold Hamper (Doves): Finn C H
Red and Gold Hamper (Robins): Gabriel and Jocelyn R
Blue and White (Kingfishers): Charlotte H

Well done to this years prize winners! Thank you to class teachers for putting these wonderful hampers together and to everyone who donated items for your generosity.



Love Hope Justice

Encourage each other and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



Kingfisher Reverse Advent Calendar

Kingfisher class have been collecting items for The Winchester Beacon with their Reverse Advent Calendar. It is a great cause so thank you for the generous donations.



School Times and Parking

Morning registration is between 8:45-8:55 as normal in the new year. To ensure a smooth and consistent start to the school day, the school doors will open at 8:40am for children who are dropped off by parents. Pupils arriving on site earlier than 8:45am must be supervised by a parent or carer.

For parents who drive, we kindly ask for your support by not parking along the school railings (opposite the shop) at drop-off and pick-up times, as this space is required for transport buses. The school parking guide has been updated and hopefully the school website has now refreshed with the latest version.

Pupils travelling by bus in the morning will arrive at 8:45am. There will be staff supervision at the gates from the start of the school day coinciding with buses at 8:45.



Early Birds and The Nest Spring Term

A big thank you to everyone who has been booking onto Early Birds and The Nest once again this term. A reminder to please think about your booking requirements over the Christmas holidays as we do encourage booking half termly. Online booking closes 4 days before a session and same day bookings come with an added cost and will need to be made via the school office.

Please do make use of our extended day facilities.

No Nuts please

We are a nut aware school and pupils are not to bring any products or spreads that contain nuts for their lunch or snacks.

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. Please check our school uniform policy recently added to our website for a

more detailed breakdown. School uniform can be purchased via Skoolkit.

Some key reminders ahead of the new term:

- Additional accessories such as jewellery, fancy hair bands, nail varnish and make up must not be worn.
- Analogue watches are allowed, not Smart Watches please.
- Only small studded earrings may be worn and should not be worn on PE days. Younger children especially struggle with earrings and they are an unnecessary distraction.
- Long hair past shoulder length should always be tied back.
- School shoes must be black and no trainers or boots.
- All school uniform should be named as it looks like everyone else! This includes bags, coats and water bottles.

We have extremely high numbers of unnamed uniform. Please use name labels or permanent pen, and if uniform is handed down, please add your child's name.

PE Kit

Please make sure your child has a PE kit with them every day and every item should be named. The weather is cold and a number of children only have PE shorts in their kits. Pupils may wear plain, dark jogging bottoms outside in colder weather.



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 carries spare stationery.

Please may we ask that all children in KS2 have a named pencil case, **small enough to fit into a tray drawer and on their desk**. Children need enough desk space to position their exercise books and other resources.

The following items would be helpful:

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

Tissues request for January

As we are in the sniffles and sneezes time of year, we are finding that pupils are using up boxes of tissues at a great rate and we have now used up our tissue budget for the year! We encourage the children to use and throw away in the bin as good hygiene practice. Please may we ask that each child bring in a box of tissues in the new year that the teachers can keep in class for use by the children during the year. Thank you for your support.

Sports Clubs Spring Term 2026

SoccerSchools will be running a number of clubs for us next term. Details of these, together with how to register your child, can be found at the link below.

www.soccerschools-uk.com/booking

Important Year R Applications September 2026



Please be reminded that if you have a child due to start school in Reception in 2026 then the deadline for applications is midnight of 15th January 2026. Please click on the following link for information and to make an application online:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

Leader in Me (7 Habits) Leadership Awards

Matilda S	Wilf W	Elsie B
Gabs P	Melanie W	Evelina Z
Ella E	Hestia G	Ella H
Orla B	Arlowe G	Mavis W
Elodie SB	Charlie E	Ayan R
Feranmi E	Violet P	Hermione AS



Living the Values Awards

Children who have been recognised for living the school values of Love, Hope and Justice.

Hermione AS	Jack W	Nancy B
Max B	Sophie L	Persephone L
Tabby L	Eloise T	Verity A
Minnie G	Bridget W	Hannah B



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to Lily F, Nathan P, Ellie-Rose W, and Orla B who were awarded a special Headteacher Award today for their hard work this term.

Mental Health Services Support

Please see attached a flyer from Hampshire regarding important services, guidance, and events for supporting mental wellbeing, particularly over the Christmas period.

9th January, Showcase of learning

Parents are welcome to come along and see a showcase of your child's most proud learning in January in classes.

This term has been both demanding and incredibly rewarding. Leading across two schools has provided opportunity to grow capacity in both schools and make a difference beyond a single setting. I am looking forward to returning fully in the new term with energy and focus on driving our school priorities forward at Preston Candover.



I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Mrs Simrit Otway
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

19th December – Last day of term (Lunchtime finish)

20th December to 4th January – Christmas Holidays
(School closed)

5th January – INSET (School closed)

6th January – Back to school, Start of Spring term

9th January - Showcases of learning-in classes 2:40 pm

15th January 2026 – Deadline for Year R 2026
applications

2025/26 Inset Days

Monday 5th January 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

+1 day TBC

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