



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: 01256 389278

Email: admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Dear Parents and Carers,

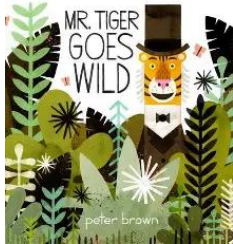
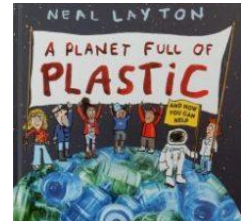
We hope you had a wonderful and restful Christmas break, filled with family time and laughter. Welcome to the beginning of a new term in Doves class....and the beginning of 2026! This term we will be focusing on embedding the children's knowledge from the Autumn term by diving deeper and, most importantly, having lots of fun!

Our Big Enquiry Question during the first half term will be: **'How do people and animals stay healthy and grow?'** This will encompass our History, Science and PSHE learning.

Our Big Enquiry Question during the second half term will be: **'Does change always make a positive difference?'** where we will use learning from Science to help answer.

English

From January to February, we will read 'A Planet Full of Plastic' by Neal Layton and the poem 'Hurt No Living Thing' by Christina Rossetti. Pupils will develop sentence structure, use adjectives purposefully, and apply punctuation like question and exclamation marks. They will write to inform by creating a campaign to reduce plastic waste and, inspired by Rossetti, compose their own minibeast poems, combining creativity with careful attention to language and structure.



After the half-term holidays, we will read 'Mr Tiger Goes Wild' by Peter Brown and Christina Rossetti's 'What is Pink?' Pupils will build on their informative writing skills to write persuasively, encouraging the animals to 'go wild.' They will develop writing stamina and take ownership by editing and improving their work. Finally, children will revisit poetry, creating their own poems about their favourite colours, combining creativity with careful attention to language.

Phonics and Spelling

Year 1

Year 1 will continue to 'grow the code' with our phase 5 graphemes. This refers to learning more alternative graphemes for our phase 3 phonemes. The children will continue to learn phase 5 tricky words (word we can't use our phonics rules to spell!) The children will continue to practice reading and writing these new graphemes and tricky words within the lessons.

Year 2

Year 2 will be continuing to apply their previous phonics knowledge to spelling rules and understand common misspellings. They will also continue to understand and distinguish between homophones and near homophones, and learn new 'prickly words' (a similar concept to tricky words.)

Maths

Year 1 and 2 pupils will develop their maths skills across number, calculation, measure, and early fractions. In term 1, they will explore place value to 100, compare and order numbers, and practise addition and subtraction using number bonds, counting on and back, and tens and ones. Pupils will also compare and measure lengths. In term 2, they will learn to tell time to the half and quarter hours, use strategies for addition and subtraction with money, explore halves and quarters, practise doubling and halving, identify odd and even numbers, and count in steps of 5 and 10 to build early multiplication skills.

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RE (Religious Education)

In RE this term, children will learn about 'Authority' through events in Jesus' life. They will explore what authority means, identify authority figures, and learn why Christians believe Jesus brings good news. This includes God's love, forgiveness, caring for others, and guidance on how to live well. After the half term holidays, Doves will explore 'Sadness and Happiness' through the Easter story. They will learn about the Last Supper, Jesus' arrest, death and resurrection. We will discover why Easter is important to Christians, focusing on forgiveness, hope, and belief in new life through Jesus.

Science

In Science, THE children will learn about animal life cycles. They will explore what makes something living and how animals grow, reproduce, and eventually die. We will learn that animals develop at different rates and live for different lengths of time. They will also investigate habitats, how animals get their food, and understand simple food chains, including producers and consumers.

Following this, the children will learn about the seasons and how living things survive changes throughout the year. They will explore the four seasons and their key features, including weather and daylight. They will learn how plants and animals adapt, such as hibernation and migration, and understand the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees.

History

During the first half term of spring, Doves class will be carrying out history learning. The children will learn about significant individuals Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. They will find out when and where they lived, explore key events in their lives, and understand why they were important. Pupils will compare their contributions, learning how Florence's hospital reforms had a lasting impact, while Mary's caring work helped soldiers at the time.

Geography

After the February half term holidays, the children will explore weather and seasons in the UK. They will identify daily and seasonal weather patterns, collect and record data using measuring equipment, and investigate how weather affects life in Preston Candover. Pupils will compare weather across the four nations of the UK, make seasonal predictions, and even take on the role of a weather reporter.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic)

In PSHE this term, children will focus on health and wellbeing, learning what it means to be healthy, who helps us, and how medicines and vaccinations support health. Later, they will explore money, including its forms, how it is obtained, spending and saving choices, the difference between needs and wants, and ways to keep money safe.

Art

In Art, children will explore butterflies, learning about artists Maria Merian and Julie Paschke and comparing their work. They will create observational drawings, mix colours to paint butterflies, design symmetrical wings using printing, and reflect on their own artwork, discussing similarities, differences, and personal preferences.

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DT (Design Technology)

In DT Doves class will focus on food technology: preparing fruit and vegetables. They will learn where food comes from and the importance of a balanced diet. Pupils will design their own healthy lunchboxes, measure and prepare ingredients, cook their creations, and evaluate their products, developing both practical skills and healthy eating knowledge.

Computing

The children will learn programming through moving a robot and creating animations. They will understand algorithms, write and debug simple programs, use logical reasoning to predict program behaviour, and create sequences to move a robot or design sprite-based animations. Pupils will explore multiple solutions to problems and develop E-Safety skills by creating safety booklets.

Music

In Music, children will begin with Rhythm in the Way We Walk / Banana Rap, exploring rhythm and expressing how music makes them feel. They will then progress to In the Groove, listening to, copying, and repeating rhythms and melodies, while learning about pitch, tempo, and developing performance skills.

PE (Physical Education)

During this term, the children will develop skills across games, dance, and gymnastics. In games, they will practise throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling, passing, and applying simple attacking and defending tactics while following rules and making decisions. In dance, pupils will copy, remember, and link movements, exploring rhythm, speed, level, and direction. In gymnastics, they will travel, balance, jump, roll, and perform sequences with control and coordination, developing overall skills for games.

Home Learning

Home learning is set on Fridays and returned by Thursdays, alternating between English and maths, with weekly spellings assessed on Fridays. Little Wandle assigned e-books should be completed and recorded in reading diaries, with reading at least three times weekly. Children also take home a library book to encourage reading for enjoyment. Library day is Thursday.

General Reminders

Please ensure your child has full PE kit (white top, red or dark 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. Long hair (below shoulder length) must 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.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. As a reminder, children have home-school communication books for important parent messages, such as changes to collection arrangements. Please, also remind you child to show us their book when they come in to school.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Wells
Doves Class Teacher

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