



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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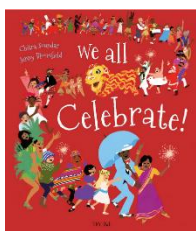
Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Dear Parents,

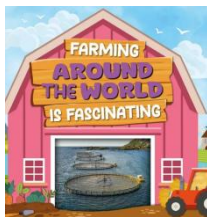
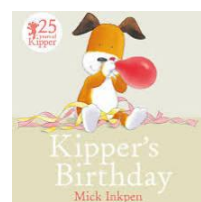
I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed making some special festive family memories.

Our Big Question for the first half of the term will be **“How do people celebrate special events and occasions?”** This will be followed by **“Where does our food come from?”** in the second half of the term.

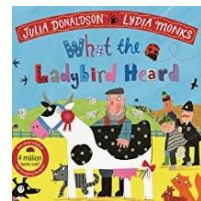
Literacy



During the first half of the term, our key texts are linked to the theme of celebrations and will include *We All Celebrate*, *Mr Wolf's Pancakes*, *Mama Panya's Pancakes* and *Kipper's Birthday*. These texts will support a range of writing opportunities, allowing the children to apply the phonics skills they have been developing. We will also discuss and retell stories, helping to build story language and comprehension skills.



After half term, we will explore the theme “From Farm to Fork.” We will use the non-fiction text *Farming Around the World Is Fascinating* to learn more about where our food comes from. Additional texts such as *The Little Red Hen*, *Rosie's Walk* and *What the Ladybird Heard* will also support our learning.



Phonics, Spelling and Reading

This term, the children will move on to Phase 3 sounds and begin applying these in their reading. They will also learn a new set of tricky words—words that cannot be sounded out and need to be recognised on sight. These will all be sent home each week in the children's home learning books.

Maths

This half term, the children will focus on counting, estimating, ordering, and comparing numbers to deepen their understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of each number. They will also explore positional language, linked to the text *Rosie's Walk*. The children will also be working with addition and subtraction within 10 and explore measures by comparing length, weight, and capacity.

Understanding the World - People, Culture and Communities (RE)

Our key concept for the first half of the term will be “special.” The children will explore what the word *special* means, investigate special clothing, and discuss why different situations require different clothing. They will also learn about how Christians and Jewish people use special clothing during religious events. After half term, the key concept will be “Signs of New Life.” The children will explore the concept of *salvation* and learn why Christians place a cross in an Easter garden, helping them to understand why Easter is an important Christian festival. To support our learning in this

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could you to discuss a special item the children have at home and send in a photo of it so we can use it in our class discussions.

Understanding the world - Past and Present (History)

In the first half of the term, to link with the theme of celebrations, the children will learn what a coronation is and compare the coronation of King Charles III with that of Queen Elizabeth II. They will identify similarities and differences, recognising what has stayed the same and what has changed over time. After half term, the children will be exploring how farm vehicles have changed over time and how these developments have made life easier and improved farming.

Understanding the world - The Natural World (Geography)

Throughout the term, the children will explore similarities and differences between different environments. Using the *What the Ladybird Heard* series, they will create their own maps. Our *Farm to Fork* focus will support learning about farming around the world, exploring farms in different countries and how climate affects what can be grown in various locations.

Understanding the world - The Natural World (Science)

The children will explore melting and freezing over this term—something the winter weather should help demonstrate! They will learn that water can freeze into ice and melt back into water when warmed. After half term, the focus will move on to animals (including humans) and healthy eating. This links closely with our PSHE learning, where we will discuss the importance of a healthy diet, physical activity, and sleep.

Expressive Arts and Design (Art/ DT)

Our artist study this term will focus on Georges Seurat. The children will explore pointillism and create their own artwork inspired by his style. After half term, the children will explore sculpture, using playdough and Model Magic to create farm animal sculptures. They will also practise preparing and cutting fruit to design and create their own healthy fruit kebabs.

Expressive arts and design (Music)

In music sessions, the children will continue to explore pulse and rhythm, copying simple rhythm patterns. They will listen to a range of musical styles and use percussion instruments to create their own compositions.

Physical development (PE)

This term, the children will develop their throwing and catching skills through a variety of ball games. In gymnastics, they will focus on creating different shapes on and off apparatus and will also enjoy creating their own marching and line dances.

Home Learning and Storywings

Each week the children will continue to be given their home learning in their home learning books. Please continue to support your child with this as well as read through their assigned E-book at least 3 times with them as it really does help them greatly in developing reading confidence and fluency.

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As outlined last term, Storywings is our whole school approach to promoting reading for pleasure and helping to instil a real love of reading. Once children have completed Storywings they will receive a special badge which they can then wear with pride on their uniform. The children all have a Storywings grid in the front of their Reading record book. They need to read or share with an adult 3 books from 4 different genres over the year, record the book on the grid and also choose and complete one of the activities in their reading record books as a review for each book read. Badges will be awarded twice throughout the year- as part of our World Book day celebrations and the end of the summer term so children can work towards the badge at their own pace. We hope you will support your child in working towards their badge this term so we can award some before the end of the Spring term.

Developing Awe and Wonder

Over the year, we are encouraging the children to develop a sense of spirituality and awe by noticing the beauty and wonder in the world around them. This term it might be noticing the frost on spider webs for example. We would really appreciate your support in nurturing this curiosity at home. Please take a photo of something your child notices and finds special in the world around them and send it in to share with the class.

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 ready for washing. Our PE days will be Wednesday and Friday.** Long hair should always be tied up using plain hair accessories. Children should not have nail polish or 'tattoos.' For Health and Safety reasons, earrings cannot be worn for PE; these should be either removed by pupils or ideally, not worn at all on PE days. Please ensure school bags do not have keyrings or attached toys.

We are very much looking forward to an exciting term of learning activities. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you are able to help with any of our learning—such coming to share with the children knowledge of farming, sharing photos of farm vehicles from the past or memorabilia linked to coronations—please do let us know

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.

Happy New Year!

Mrs Cooke
Sparrows Class Teacher

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