Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – November 27th 2026

Educational visits - thank you!



I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to our incredibly generous parents and local councillors for their support in ensuring our children continue to benefit from educational visits.

A huge thank you to the Year 3 parents who kindly contributed additional funds to cover the shortfall for the recent Rising Sun trips, ensuring that these visits could go ahead and were not at risk of cancellation.

I would also like to thank a very generous parent who donated £200 towards our school, which we will use towards the cost of the whole-school pantomime trip. In addition, following conversations with our local ward councillor, John Johnson, I am delighted that they have also kindly donated £200 through the ward grant towards educational visits. These contributions will help cover the remaining balance of our pantomime trip, which is incredible.

We are very grateful for this generosity and community support. Educational visits provide such valuable opportunities for our children, enriching their learning, broadening their experiences and creating wonderful memories. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, makes a real difference and helps us to continue offering the exciting and varied curriculum our children deserve.

Moving forwards, there have been some excellent ideas from parents themselves at coffee mornings ,which we will consider for future trips:

- ★ Fundraising within a class to generate funding for their own trips for the year (3 trips)
- ★ Having a 'pay it forward column on the booking system (3 or 4 days before the booking system closes if donations are low.) This could be for £1/2,/3 or £5.
- ★ Paying a small amount monthly by direct debit to school (eg. £3.50) or slightly increasing the direct debit to £5 to help school manage keeping trip costs lower.

Fundraising

For many years, our annual pantomime visit was funded through the support of the Friends of Preston Grange, and we are grateful for the contribution this has made to providing this special experience for our children.

Over the last couple of years, we have had to ask families for a contribution towards the panto trip. We will however be relaunching a fundraising approach through our Incredible 8 and Mrs Smith, with our aim being to raise £3,500 through school-led fundraising activities to cover the cost of our annual whole-school pantomime trip.

By working towards one collective target, we hope to raise sufficient funds to continue this wonderful annual tradition without needing to ask families for individual contributions.

Tipi

The canvas on our tipi was already split some time ago, and then was very badly damaged in recent storms. We have contacted the tipi company to ask for a quote to renew the canvas. Originally, we paid £10,000 from fundraising ten years ago, so we are slightly nervous about the replacement canvas cost, however we are awaiting a quote, because we used the tipi for so many different reasons across the school day.

Christingle

This half-term the choir are practising songs for our Christingle performance on Tuesday 8th December at ST Hilda's in North Shields. The Christingle service starts at 5pm so if your child is in the choir, please arrive around 4:40pm to give enough time to drop your child off and find a seat inside the church. The service should last around an hour and you must collect your child from a member of staff following the service. The morning of the performance we will be going to the venue to practice the songs.

Please note that even if your child is not in the choir, it is a lovely Christmas service, and all are welcome to attend. The service will start at 5.30pm. Thank you to Mr Whitenstall for practising with the choir for the event.

Keeping Children Safe Online This Christmas

As the festive season approaches, many families are finalising their Christmas lists. While tech and online games might be top of the wish list, there is much more magic to be found in screen-free gifts that encourage play, imagination, and time together—especially as the online world can be a tricky and unpredictable place for primary-aged children to navigate.



Of course, we know that connected devices and games do make their way into many homes over the holidays. If your child already uses a screen, or receives one this Christmas, we encourage you to treat it with incredible caution. Remember the online world can be a risker place and cause more harm than you may first think:

- Monitor closely: Keep devices in shared family spaces—never in bedrooms—and stay involved in who they are talking to and what they are watching.
- Lock down the settings: Set up strict parental controls, disable chat functions in games, and block in-app purchases before handing a device over.
- Stick to age ratings: Many popular apps and games are rated 12+ or 16+ for a reason; they are **not** designed for primary-aged children.

Lastly, also on the subject of keeping children safe online, we would recommend that you scan the QR code here, which shares a video about changing the norms and being aware of what your child is able to view on a smartphone:

Thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe this Christmas. If you would like any support setting up parental controls before the holidays, please pop into the school office or visit the Internet Matters website for step-by-step guides.



Christmas Performances

For our Christmas performances, we will be using our booking system and you will be able to buy two tickets for each performance via the shop on Teachers 2 Parents app. ***Tickets go on sale on Friday 4th December at 9am.*** Please do not try to buy more than two tickets for each performance as the extra tickets will not be issued. **Any spare tickets will then be available on a first-come, first-served basis from Monday 8th December at 9am until they run out.**

A message from our RRSA (rights Respecting School Ambassadors)

27th November 2026

Dear families,

We are planning a special Christmas event again this year. We would like to support an important charity called Feeding Families by organising some '**foodraising**' to help families in our community.

We know that if we work together as a school, we can make a difference to lots of families this Christmas and as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School, we know that ALL children have the right to…



We are asking for food donations from the list on the back of this letter. Please bring your donations to the school office between

Monday 30th November and Wednesday 9th December

We ask you to give as generously as you can, we know that every donation will bring hope to a family at Christmas. We have a donation list for you on the reverse of this letter.

Thank you for your support!

Miss Knowles Ayla. Salinah Alicia Matilda Dobson Arran Hallie! Olivia B Ava Charlie

PGPS RRSA Ambassadors and Miss Knowles

Theatre Royal panto trip

I'd like to thank all of the staff and children for a really successful trip to the pantomime yesterday! We all had such an amazing time. Huge thanks to the staff, for their teamwork and hard work in running our annual whole school trip. We were delighted that staff at the Theatre Royal commented about how well behaved the children were, which was lovely - we know behaviour is excellent, but it is extra special when other people notice it!



Dates for your diary

Wed 2/12 - Year 5 coffee morning 9am
Wed 2/12 - Year 6 twilight coffee afternoon 3.30pm
Thurs 3/12 - Year 4 Vindolanda trip all day
Tues 8/12 - Meeting for January Nursery children 1-1.45pm & Stay and Play session
Thurs 8/12 - Christingle 5pm
Wed 9/12 - Year 2 Discovery Museum trip all day
Thurs 10/12 - Early Years Xmas performance 9.15 am
Thurs 10/12 - Y1,2,3 Xmas performance 1.10pm
Thurs 10/12 - Y4,5,6 Xmas performance 2.15pm
Thurs 10/12 - Netball at John Spence 3.45pm Y5 & 6
Fri 11/12 - Early Years Xmas performance 9.15 am
Fri 11/12 - Y1,2,3 Xmas performance 1.10pm
Fri 11/12 - Y4,5,6 Xmas performance 2.15pm
Mon 14/12 - Christmas jumper day Save the Children
Mon 14/12 - Polar Express morning in Nursery AM
Tues 15/12 - Christmas lunch
Wed 16/12 - Christmas parties for all classes (more info to follow)
Thurs 17/12 - Break up for Christmas holidays

Fri 18th Dec - TEACHER TRAINING DAY

NB. Children return to school on Monday 5th January 2027 - there is no teacher training day.

Tracey Taylor,
Headteacher