

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – March 17th 2026



Charity or non-uniform days

- Red Nose Day Friday 20th March 'Take Yourself Funny for Money' - uniform as usual, face paint and crazy hair. Please can the children also bring a joke with them. The QR code for donations to Red Nose Day was sent home last week on paper in the children's book bags.
- Easter themed chocolate tombola - Thursday 2nd April, please send the children into school in non-uniform, and bring an Easter themed item for our chocolate tombola to raise money for school funds.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for supporting the different groups of children in school during our enterprise half term. Each week three groups of children run a stall to raise money for school fund. Some of the tools raised by the groups have been phenomenal! The amount of money raised by groups so far is £793.49!!

Key Stage 2 SATS

Year 6 children will begin their SATS on Tuesday 9th May until Friday 12th May.

We have requested some support from the Connect Team, and they will be running the following sessions for parents & the Year 6 children ahead of the SATS:

- Supporting your child through SATS (parents)
- SAT stress for children (Year 6)

Choir programme

Please see below the details for the National Youth Choir's SING! programme for the North-East which will be running out of Newcastle Sixth Form College in 2026.

SING! is free of charge and for anyone who enjoys singing in Years 5-8 with the first of three 2026 events being held on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March 2026 between 10am-4pm.

Angels of the North

We will once again be taking part in the wonderful Angel of the North mass choir event at The Glasshouse, one of the largest children's choir concerts in the North East. The truly breath-taking concert featuring over 400 fantastic voices from North East schools children.

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR

SING! North East

Join **SING!** near you! Three **FREE** workshops led by expert vocal leaders from National Youth Choir. No experience needed! Come along to improve your singing, learn new songs together and make friends who love to sing.

For young people who are in Year 5 to 8 at state school or homeschooled
Free to take part • We can pay travel costs

Dates for your diary
21 & 22 March 2026, 10am-4pm
Newcastle Sixth Form College
Sunday 7 June 2026, 10am-4pm
Newcastle University
Sunday 11 October 2026, 10am-4pm
Newcastle University
includes auditions for National Youth Choir

"Today made me happy and made me want to sing more"

Sign up for SING!
www.nationalyouthchoir.org.uk/sing-north-east

If your child currently attends Choir club, a letter will be going out in the next few weeks with the arrangements for the concert and how **to buy** tickets. Please could these children continue to practice the songs at home and if they are auditioning for a solo to practice their chosen song as well. The concert is on Wednesday 10th June 2026 – 6.30 p.m



Easter events

Thank you to the Friends of Preston Grange for organising the Easter events in school this year.

The Easter egg competition will be on Wednesday 1st April. We ask that the children bring their hard boiled egg into school along with any craft resources that they'd like to use on Tuesday 31st March so that we have them all ready in school for the 1st.

We invite families to enter a family egg decorating competition again this year!

Kids & smartphones - what's the big deal?

<p>Opportunity cost</p> <p>More scrolling means less time for play, reading and real-life connection.</p>	<p>Harmful content</p> <p>Extreme, explicit content is just a click away – even when kids aren't looking for it.</p>	<p>Mental health</p> <p>Since smartphones became widespread, teen anxiety, depression and self-harm have surged.</p>
<p>Addiction</p> <p>Apps are designed to keep kids scrolling – that's how tech companies make money.</p>	<p>Attention</p> <p>Constant pings and notifications make it harder for kids to concentrate, learn, and focus.</p>	<p>Family life</p> <p>Phones can fuel arguments, drain attention, and crowd out real connection.</p>
<p>Cyberbullying</p> <p>Conflicts now follow kids home, with no off switch and no escape.</p>	<p>Sleep</p> <p>Blue light and late-night scrolling disrupt rest and recovery.</p>	<p>Grooming</p> <p>Predators target kids on popular apps like TikTok and Snapchat.</p>


 Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay smartphones and social media.
 SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

Please bring your family entry into school (labelled with the family name and a title for your egg) by 9am on the 1st April.

Online safety parent sessions

We have had some very positive feedback from parents who attended the online safety meeting for parents, delivered by Mr Russell-Thompson. As a consequence, we will be offering the same session on another two sessions on:

Monday 30th March - at

9:00am OR Wednesday 22nd April - 5:00pm

The issue of online safety is a very important one, and we hope to see as many of you there as possible at the sessions.

Angels of the North - The Glasshouse

If your child currently attends Choir club, a letter will be going out in the next few weeks with the arrangements for the concert and how to buy tickets. Mr Whitenstall and Miss Wright have asked please could these children continue to practice the songs at home, and if they are auditioning for a solo, to practice their chosen song as well. The concert is on Wednesday 10th June 2026 – 6.30 p.m Tickets for the concert will be on sale from Monday 23rd March 2026, and anyone can purchase a ticket from a booking link which will be shared with families nearer the time.

Scholastic book fair

During the week beginning Monday 20th April, we will be holding a Scholastic book fair across the week. Parents are invited into school between 8.30-9am and 3.30-4pm each day to look through the books on sale with your child/ren.

Parents will be able to pay for books at the fair using a QR code, mobile phone and debit/credit cards.

Advance notice

I'd like to inform parents & carers that the cost of breakfast club and after school clubs will be rising after Easter. Per session, breakfast club will cost £3.00 per child per day from Monday 20th April onwards, and after school clubs will rise to £3.50 per session. We have held these prices as low as we could for as long as possible, but unfortunately due to increases in staffing, external contracts (catering) & food costs, we are having to factor this into costs of clubs.

In addition to this, school meals will also see a cost increase per day from April 20th onwards. We have for many years held this price as low as possible for families, but moving forwards there will be an increase from £2.70 per day to £2.85 per day.

Dates for your diary

Mon 16/3 - Bikeability Level 2 week Year 5

Tues 17/3 - Year 3 visit Ouseburn

Fri 20/3 - Red Nose Day (see above)

Wed 25/3 - Year 2 visit Tamar Court

Tues 31/3 - Online safety meeting for parents 9am

Tues 31/3 - Year 3 dodgeball competition @JSCHS

Tues 31/3 - Year 5 at Civic Centre, Carmen opera

Tues 31/3 - all children to bring hard boiled egg into school

Wed 1/4 - children decorate hard boiled egg in classes

Wed 1/4 - family egg competition, entries to school by 9am

Wed 1/4 - Active mile in school (PM)

Wed 1/4 - Year 4 badminton tournament @JSCHS (PM)

Thurs 2/4 - Easter themed chocolate tombola (please bring chocolate into school), non-uniform day

Thurs 2/4 Break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAY

Mon 20/4 - Children return to school

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher