

Preston Grange Primary School

28th September 2026



Welcome

I'd like to welcome a new pupil and their family to school. Saleem has recently joined our Year 6 class. We hope that you enjoy being a part of our school community.

Chance to Dance

We will be going to the Newcastle Eagles basketball game on Friday 16th October from school. Thank you to all families and children who have signed up for the event. More information will be sent out ahead of the night, along with your tickets and details about the departure time for the bus, if you have chosen to travel by coach.

The children who are being cheerleaders will have a dance training session with Julie, dance teacher, on Tuesday 13th October. They will also get an Eagles cheerleading outfit, which they will come home with. We ask that they arrive at the game already in their cheerleading clothes. Thank you & we're all looking forward to going!



Mrs Spowart

This week we sadly say goodbye to someone who has been such a special part of the Preston Grange family. After 13 years with us, Mrs Spowart is moving on to pastures new, and although we are so excited for her and this next chapter, it is going to feel very strange not having her around.

Mrs Spowart first joined Preston Grange as a Teaching Assistant in Reception. She worked alongside Miss Knowles and supported some of our youngest children and became a familiar, friendly and reassuring face to them. Over the years, her role evolved as she trained in Thrive, and developed a real passion for supporting children's social and emotional wellbeing.

She left the classroom and took on an important role in Wellbeing, Attendance and Family Support — a role in which she has made such a huge difference to our children and families.

For 13 years, Mrs Spowart has listened, supported, encouraged, reassured, celebrated successes and helped families through some really difficult times. She has always had time for a conversation, a kind word, a cuppa and, very often, a solution. Her calm, caring and compassionate approach has meant so much to so many people.

It is difficult to put into words just how much she has contributed to Preston Grange. There will be children who are now much older, who will still remember Mrs Spowart and the difference she made to them. There will be families who will remember the support she gave them when they needed it most. And there will certainly be staff who will miss her kindness, humour and friendship every single day.

I'd like to thank Mrs Spowart for the support & care she has shown our children and families, and for everything she has quietly done behind the scenes over the past 13 years. She has been such an important part of what makes Preston Grange the school it is, and her contribution will never be forgotten. We are going to miss her so, so much, but we are incredibly grateful that Preston Grange has been lucky enough to have her for the last 13 years.

We would all like to wish Mrs Spowart good luck in her new adventure. Once Preston Grange, always Preston Grange ❤️

Please note, if your child usually works with Mrs Spowart, this will be continued by other staff in school.

Leaders in school

At our school, we value pupil voice and encourage the children to be involved in groups and leadership roles, and contribute to decision making across school. Children are able to apply for a variety of roles in school, and I would like to share our following pupil groups for this academic year:

Sports Leaders - Isabella, Poppy, Harrison, Jack, Arran, William, Bella, William, Sophia

Incredible 8 - Robson, Hannah, Anthony, Lilly, Lilli-Beth, Aaron, Sophia & George

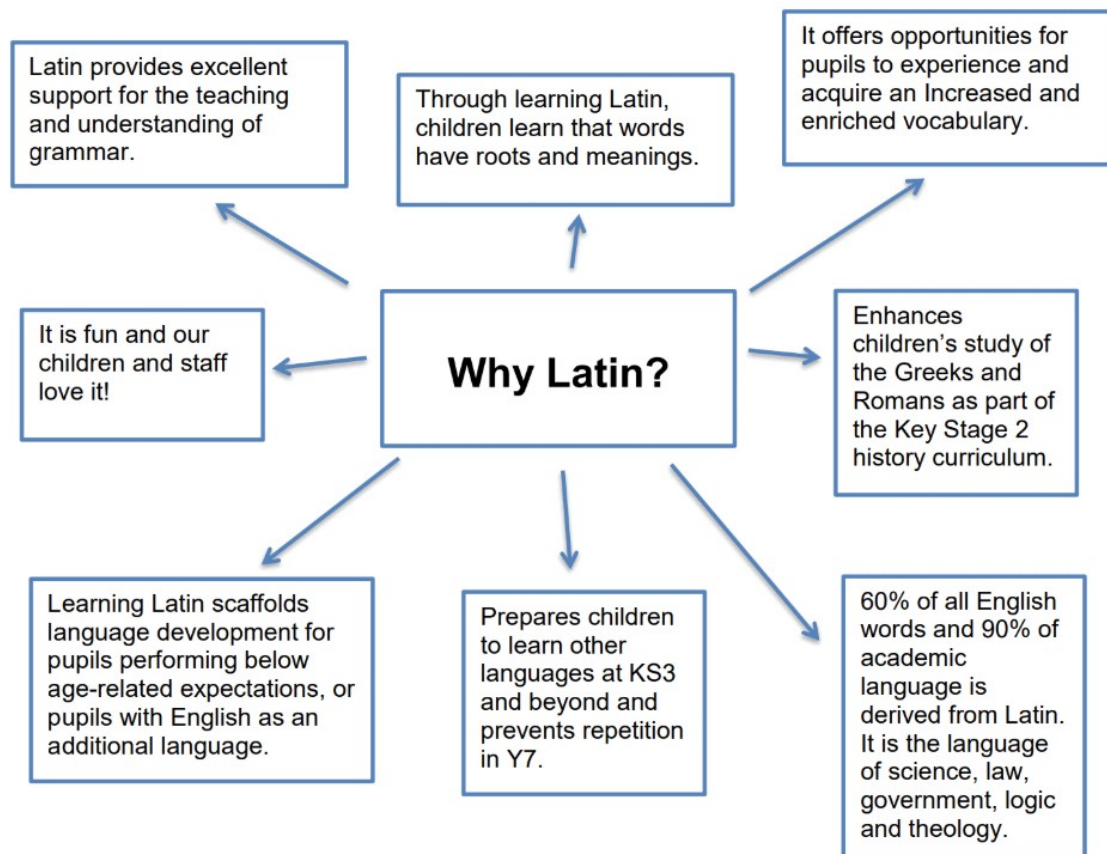
RRSA Ambassadors - Olivia, Matilda, Charlie, Ava, Arran, Alicia, Hallie, Ayla & Salimah

Ambassadors - Anthony, Harris, Adam, Joshua, Hannah, Maggie, Mila, Ada, Eilidh & Noah (Not Pictured)



Latin

This term we have started to teach our Key Stage 2 children Latin instead of French. The children are absolutely loving it! The Latin resources are based on links to the Roman Wall and Vindolanda, so it has excellent links with our local History in school. Please ask your child in Years 3 to 6 about it. Please see below, the reasons we love teaching Latin:



Instagram

Thank you so much for taking part in our recent survey requesting your thoughts about the best platform for sharing & communicating what is happening in your child's class and whole school across the week. I can confirm that we will be moving from X (Twitter) to Instagram. All parents will receive a text when the account is launched.

NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme

We are participating in the **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe.** programme this half term. This is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand and recognise the signs of the different types of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly, age-appropriate programme is fully aligned with our curriculum and consists of a short film delivered through a Key Stage assembly and supporting classroom based activities. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.



Friends of Preston Grange

We have three parents who arrange fund-raising events for school across the year. They wonder if there are any other parents/family members who would be interested in helping with the Friends of Preston Grange? If you are interested, please pop into the school office & give your name. Thank you!

Educational Visits

We have received 60 parents views on our recent educational visits survey. Today it has been re-sent to all families via text, and we would be grateful if more families would complete it, so that we have a greater percentage of families opinions. Thank you for your support.

Christmas dates

Please find the Christmas performances below:

Thurs 10/12 Early Years (N + R) - 9.15am

Thurs 20/12 Year 1,2 & 3 - 1.10pm

Thurs 20/12 Y4,5 & 6 - 2.15pm

Fri 11/12 Early Years (N + R) - 9.15am

Fri 11/12 Year 1,2 & 3 - 1.10pm

Fri 11/12 Year 4,5 & 6 - 2.15pm

Dates for your diary

Mon 28/9 - Forest School afternoon Year 3

Tues 29/9 - Year 1 coffee morning 9am-10am

Wed 30/9 - Mrs Spowart's last day

Mon 5/10 - NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe week

Mon 5/10 - Forest School afternoon Year 4

Tues 6/10 – SEN meetings AM

Tues 6/10 - Year 2 coffee morning 9-10am

Tues 6/10 - Family Learning session for Reception families 9-10.15am

Tues 6/10 - football trials lunchtime

Tues 6/10 – **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** due to staff training

Tues 6/10 - **DEADLINE FOR RETURNED ARTWORK** for Cauliflower card orders

Wed 7/10 - Family learning session for Year 1 families 9-10.15am

Thurs 8/10 - SEN meetings AM

Fri 9/10 - Family learning session for Year 2 families 9-10.15am

Mon 12/10 week – Show Racism the Red Card in PSHE lessons

Mon 12/10 - Family learning session for Year 3 families 9-10.15am

Mon 12/10 - Year 2 to Tamar Court

Mon 12/10 - Forest School afternoon for Year 5

Tues 13/10 - Julie, Dance teacher with Chance to Dance children PM

Tues 13/10 - Year 3 Coffee morning 9-10am

Tues 13/10 - Nursery January starters stay & play (with parents) 1-1.45pm

Wed 14/10 - Family learning session for Year 4 families 9-10.15am

Thurs 15/10 - Family learning session for Year 5 families 9-10.15am

Thurs 15/10 - Year 5/6 football @JSCHS 4-5pm

Fri 16/10 - Family learning session for Year 6 families 9-10.15am

Fri 16/10 – Newcastle Eagles game & Chance to Dance cheerleaders (evening)

Mon 19/10 - Year 2 at Tamar Court PM

Wed 21/10 - Road Safety sessions across school with NT road safety team

Thurs 22/10 – Halloween discos (PM) more info to follow

Fri 23/10 – **Wear Pink non-uniform day**

Fri 23/10 - Girls football festival @JSCHS Year 1 & 2 AM

Fri 23/10 - Girls football festival @JSCHS Year 3 & 4 PM

Fri 23/10 – Break up for Half term

NB. Children return to school on Monday 2nd November

Tues 3/11 – Parent appointments to discuss your child's progress (PM & evening)

Tues 3/11 - Year 4 coffee morning 9-10am

Tues 13/10 Nursery stay and play 1-1:45pm (with parents)

Wed 4/11 - Individual school photos 8am start (more info to follow)

Tues 10/11 - Year 5 educational visit to Jarrow Hall all day

Tues 10/11 - Year 5 coffee morning 9-10am

Tues 10/11 - Open morning for prospective Early Years parents 9.45-10.45am

Wed 11/11 - Year 1 & 3 educational visits to the Rising Sun all day

Thurs 12/11 - Year 5/6 football @JSCHS 4-5pm

Fri 13/11 - Children in Need (non-uniform day: wear pyjamas)

Mon 16/11 - Anti-bullying week covered in assemblies & PSHE (wear odd socks)

Tues 17/11 - Year 6 synagogue educational visit AM

Tues 17/11 - Year 6 coffee morning 9-10am

Tues 17/11 - Nursery January starters stay & play (with parents) 1-1.45pm

Thurs 19/11 - Year 5 & 6 Netball training @JSCHS 3.45-4.45pm

Mon 23/11 - White Ribbon campaign - covered in PSHE this week

Tues 24/11 - Nursery coffee morning 11-11.45am

Thurs 26/11 - Whole school trip to the Theatre Royal Pantomime PM

Tues 8/12 - Welcome to Nursery meeting & stay and play for children 1-1.45pm

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher