

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – September 29th 2025



Non-uniform days this term

There are several non-uniform days this term; please see below. A text reminder will be sent ahead of each of these days:

- Wear red for SRtRC (Show Racism the Red Card) Friday 17th October
- Wear pink for cancer awareness Friday 24th October
- Wear odd socks to kick off anti bullying week on Monday 10th November
- Wear PJs for Children in Need on Friday 14th November
- Save the Children Xmas jumper day on Thursday 11th December

Baby news!

We are delighted to announce that Mr Whitenstall has become a Dad for the second time last week! Beautiful baby Margot arrived on Friday, weighing 8lbs 5 oz. We'd like to send Mr Whitenstall and his family huge congratulations on the exciting news!



Safeguarding

I would ask that all parents follow the link to our updated Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy on our school website. This is in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025 and our statutory duty to keep children safe:

<https://www.pgps.co.uk/website/policies/684809>

For your information, each school requires a Designated Safeguarding Lead. As Headteacher, I am Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), and Miss Knowles & Mr Russell-Thompson are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)

Parent Workshops

Early Years parent sessions

We'd love to invite parents of our current Nursery and Reception classes to join us for a short session that will focus on how to support your child at home. Each session will begin in the hall with the class teacher sharing some information and ideas with you, then you are welcome to join the children in the classroom to enjoy some activities. Please see below for dates and timings;

- Tuesday 14th October 9.10am -10.10am **Reception** - Reading and phonics focus
- Wednesday 15th October 9.00am - 10.00am **Nursery** - Developing independence, self awareness and early language

We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

A Splash of Colour

We were recently offered the opportunity to take part in an Intergenerational" project called 'A Splash of Colour.' The idea is that our school is matched to a local retirement scheme, and over a couple of sessions, the children and tenants work together to create artwork for the communal walls of the residence.

We have been matched with Tamar Court in North Shields, and I'm delighted that our Year 4 children will be divided into two, and each half of the class will spend 2 alternate weeks visiting the retirement scheme at Tamar Court over 4 Friday afternoons, starting on Friday 3rd October. Bus transport is provided for the children.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to participate in an intergenerational project, and we think that they will get so much from taking part in this scheme! Please see our Twitter account (pg_primary) for updates on the Year 4 visits to Tamar Court.

Newcastle Eagles basketball

Thank you for the amazing sign up for the trip to the Newcastle Eagles basketball game on Friday 10th October. We have arranged for the children (who wish to take part on the night) to be the cheerleaders for time-outs during the Eagles game, as part of the Chance to Dance package.



There will be 120 parents, children and staff attending the game! More details regarding ticket information and transport details will be sent out in the week beginning October 6th.



Forest School clothing

If your child takes part in forest school, whether it be dinner time or after school club, they need to be in the appropriate clothing. Mrs Ward has asked that children bring a 'forest bag' with old clothes & shoes/wellies they can keep in a bag and leave on their peg in school. This means that they will always have clothing at school in case they are doing anything messy/wet. In this bag, the children must have: a waterproof and the appropriate shoes.

Reading at home

Reading at home is extremely important, and we ask that parents listen to their child read every night. When reading with your child at home however, it is really important to understand the importance of re-reading a text. Sometimes we might hear or see that a parent has written in the child's home reading record, these words: "they know this book, can they have something else?"

Re-reading a book builds fluency. Once fluent, children can begin to add intonation and even do character voices. Fluency improves understanding of the story and allows for greater depth engagement with the book. Encourage your child to re-read OFTEN and this will develop their confidence as a reader immeasurably.

Thank you for your continued support at home.

Times Tables

Following the Summer break, teachers are finding that children's knowledge of their times tables is a little rusty. We would be grateful for some support at home, in order that the children have swift recall of their tables. Sometimes we hear from parents that children 'know' their times tables, but they need to repeatedly practise their tables. Overlearning refers to the continued practice on a task after some criterion of mastery on that task has been achieved.

A pianist, for example, might continue to practice a piece despite already being able to perform it. (Soderstrom & Bjork, 2013) Children need to not practice until they get it right, but until they cannot get it wrong. Thank you once again for your support at home.

Football trials

Second football trials this week (Tuesday 30th). The first date for littleton league is Thursday 9th of October @ John Spence after school. Thank you to Simon Brown, our coach, for organising the trials and coaching the team for the league.

Wellbeing ambassadors

A number of our children have been selected to be Wellbeing ambassadors in school, to support other children with worries, problems and issues outside on the playground.

Their training will be starting on Tuesday the 30th with Peter from the Connect Mental Health Team attached to our school. Training will be over 4 afternoons and once they have done their training, we are looking forward to them being able to support other children in school.



Websites

While it is important to always be vigilant and aware of what your child is accessing online. The internet also has websites which are good sources of information and can support your child's learning. Here are some recommended websites but as always it is best to use parental controls and supervise your child when they are online.

BBC Newsround - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>

BBC Newsround has been supplying high quality appropriate journalism to children for decades and remains the number one stop for children interested in current affairs.

National Geographic Kids - <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

As well as an amazing high quality and educational print magazine. Their website is worth checking out if you have an animal-mad child at home.

BBC i-Player <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer>

With the correct child controls in place, iPlayer provides lots of high quality, educational programming. It is so fun they won't even realise they are learning. From Horrible Histories to Operation Ouch it is full of great factual television and you can even rest assured the comedy and drama will be appropriate.

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

For help with homework or to take that interest sparked in the classroom even further at home BBC Bitesize has a wealth of informative clips, articles and guides.

Swiggle - <https://swiggle.org.uk/>

Swiggle is a child friendly search engine designed to keep children safe online.

Encyclopedia Britannica Kids- <https://kids.britannica.com/>

The Encyclopedia Britannica is still going strong with a print Kids encyclopedia which has been refreshed and revamped and a great monthly magazine called What on Earth! But they also have a kids website which is tailored to different age groups.

Ceilidh dancing

This half term, Year 4 & 5 are taking part in ceilidh dance lessons every Wednesday afternoon. The children are really enjoying these.



Parliament visit Year 6

We have an exciting opportunity for our Year 6 children to participate in this term. We have successfully applied to take the class of Year 6 to Parliament in Westminster on Tuesday 16th December. The children will travel to London to enjoy a unique learning experience including an engaging curriculum-informed

workshop in the Education Centre, and an unforgettable tour of the iconic Palace of Westminster. More information to follow.

Tipi

Our long standing tipi, used and visited regularly by the children during lessons and at playtimes, has been damaged and sadly has a large hole in the canvas. We have been in touch with the Tipi Company who supplied this to school many years ago, and we have had a cost to replace the whole canvas. After Christmas we hope to do some fundraising towards replacing this canvas, so that the children may benefit from the tipi for years to come.

Christmas dates

Advanced notice. Please see the dates of the Christmas performances below:

THURSDAY 11th December

Years 3,4,5 & 6 - 1.15pm

Reception, Y1 & 2 - 2.30pm

FRIDAY 12th December

Reception, Y1 & 2 - Friday 12/12 - 1.15pm

Years 3,4,5 & 6 - Friday 12/12 - 2.30pm

Nursery will be doing their own Christmas songs for families in the Nursery classroom on the morning of the 12th December, from 11.15am - 11.45am.

Dates for your diaries:

Tues 30/9 - Wellbeing training for ambassadors starts (week 1 of 4)

Thurs 2/10 - Thrive (whole class) Year 4

Fri 3/10 - Preston Grange Has Talent auditions in class PM

Mon 6/10 - Road Safety training across school (all day)

Fri 10/10 - Thrive (whole class) Year 5

Fri 10/10 - Chance to Dance, Newcastle Eagles Game (evening)

Thurs 16/10 - Thrive (whole class) Year 6

Tues 21/10 - Parent consultations PM

Thurs 23/10 - PGHT Talent show final 2.30pm

Fri 24/10 - Halloween discos PM

Fri 24/10 - No swimming for Y6 this week

Fri 24/10 - Break up for October half term

Mon 3rd Nov - Children return to school

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher