



Preston Primary

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Wednesday 23rd September 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year and a special welcome to the 20 new families who have joined us as well as to Miss Blair our new Year 1 / 2 Teacher.

It was a long Summer break, I'm sure you agree, so I'm delighted that the children have returned to school eager to get down to work and to participate in all aspects of school life. The After School Clubs operating this half term have already started and two of our Year 6 pupils are currently conducting a whole school audit to find out what children would like to see on offer in the way of activities. Once this is completed we shall be issuing a yearly plan so that you know in advance which clubs will be coming up and can plan ahead.

Our Year 6 pupils are also rising to the challenge of being the oldest pupils in the school. They have each taken on an area of responsibility and are fulfilling their roles extremely well.

An exciting project this term involves us in working once again with Tees Valley Arts. Using the old quarry location in Preston Park as stimulus, the children will have the opportunity to take part in drama and creative writing activities. Those parents of children involved in last term's 'Story Trails' initiative will appreciate the high standard of work produced from such projects.

Accompanying the newsletter are the teachers' individual class pieces, which we hope you find useful.

As well as welcoming Drama Specialists and Creative Writers to the school, we shall also be working with an Artist this term, when Year 6 visit Bowes Museum as part of their study of Ancient Greeks.

Parent Support Adviser

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Platts and Mr Clift have taken on a new role within the school as 'Parent Support Advisers.' Working in partnership, both members of staff will be in a position to offer impartial advice to parents regarding their child's learning, help in providing links to other services and agencies and information about adult and family learning opportunities.

More information will be coming out in the near future but if anyone in the meantime, wishes to speak with either Mrs Platts or Mr Clift, please ring to arrange an appointment.

After School Clubs

Gymnastics, Chess, Football, Table Tennis and Choir Clubs have already begun. Letters have been circulated to the children. We still have a number of places for Table Tennis. This club has also been extended to include Year 4. Anyone interested should contact Mrs Ennion via the School Office.

Academic Achievement

Those parents who received my July Newsletter will be aware of the tremendous results achieved by our Year 6 children. I am now in a position to be able to share our school's results with the comparative data from the Local Authority and National Figures.

Level 4 and Above:

	School	Local Authority	National
English	96%	81%	80%
Reading	96%	86%	86%
Writing	96%	70%	67%
Maths	92%	82%	79%
Science	92%	91%	88%

Level 5:

	School	Local Authority	National
English	50%	29%	29%
Reading	63%	47%	47%
Writing	46%	19%	19%
Maths	54%	40%	35%
Science	67%	49%	43%

We are delighted that the levels achieved are all above both Local Authority and National results. I am particularly pleased that the high standards previously achieved in writing continue, as once again we have exceeded Local Authority and National figures by a marked percentage at both Level 4 and Level 5.

Targets

Each class teacher will be sending home Maths and English targets by the end of this week.

Financial Information

In line with Financial Management Standards in Schools I have included, within the newsletter, a break down of the previous and current year's financial report.

School Budget

Preston Primary School

Financial Information for Annual Report to Parents

	2008/2009	2009/2010
	Outturn	Budget
	£	£
Employees	455,598	464,279
Curriculum	14,988	12,634
Premises	43,213	43,482
Transport	0	0
Supplies and Services	59,354	58,212
Expenditure	573,153	578,607
Income	(49,538)	(8,509)
Total Net Expenditure	523,615	570,098
Budget Share	555,280	584,175
Final Outturn	31,665	14,077

I hope you enjoy reading two of the poems our pupils have written:

Nan

*Nan is the busy one,
Round the house like a spinning top.
Up and down like a yo-yo.
She snuggles you up like a teddy bear.
Fills you up with yummy treats.
As funny as a clown.
As merry as Christmas.*

Emily Bloor

My Brother

*My brother jumps and kicks like
a wrestler,
Telling people what to do,
Clothes all over the floor,
Helps Mum to stack the dishwasher
and wash the pots,
Green eyes like a juicy, crunchy, green
apple.*

Courtney Sheffield

Allotment

Two classes have so far visited our allotment this term. When you look at it now it is hard to imagine the waterlogged mass it was last November. Thanks to the help of many parents, governors, staff and children, it has been transformed. Mrs Stockley is a regular visitor into school, bringing the latest home grown produce for our School Kitchen. Do take the opportunity to have a look at the site. Everyone should be very proud of their efforts.

Tokens & Vouchers

We continue to collect Morrison 'Let's Grow' tokens and The Times 'Books for Schools' vouchers. The Evening Gazette is once again running their 'Wish' Campaign. More information will be coming out about this from the School Council.

Reading Questionnaire

As parents, you will be aware that we are always seeking your views regarding your child's education. Last year our focus was on reading. Two Parents Meetings were held to discuss our approach to reading and how you, as parents, could support your child at home. Attached to the newsletter is a Questionnaire which we would appreciate you completing. Could I please ask you to return it to the School Office by **Monday 28th September.** Many thanks.

Cycle Contract

I'm very pleased that we have a number of children who are now cycling to school. We have had a 'Cycle Contract' in place for a number of years and I would appreciate it if you could sign and return one of these agreements, if your child is riding to school.

Elmwood Entrance

It has been brought to my attention that quite a number of cars are pulling into the lane leading to the school gate from Elmwood Road and then reversing back out. As 8.45 – 9.10 a.m. is an extremely busy time, with lots of families with young children entering school, could I please ask that parents park away from the school gates and walk their children into school, to avoid accidents.

Yours Sincerely,

Shirley Winters (Mrs)
Head Teacher

Forthcoming Dates for your Diary

Please note; the three remaining Professional Development Days for this school year will take place on **Monday 22nd February 2010 and Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd July 2010.**

Could parents of pupils in Year 2 and Year 6 please note the dates of the Key Stage 1 and 2 SAT's.

Key Stage 1 (Year 2 children) throughout May 2010

Key Stage 2 (Year 6 children) 10th – 14th May 2010

Friday	25th September	Macmillian Coffee Afternoon
Monday	28 th September	Reception Class Gazette Photograph
Friday	16 th October	PTA Disco
Tuesday	20th October	Individual & Family Photographs
Thursday	22nd October	Harvest Festival a.m.
Friday	23 rd October	School Closes for Half Term
Half Term Monday 26th – Friday 30th October		
Monday	2 nd November	School re-opens after Half Term
Tuesday	10th – Wed. 11th November	Book Fair
Tuesday	10th November	Parent Meetings 3.30 – 5.30 p.m.
Wednesday	11th November	Parent Meetings 5 – 7 p.m.
Friday	27 th November	PTA Christmas Fair

My Child and Reading : Parent Questionnaire

My child is in Year _____

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child enjoys reading.				
My child enjoys being read to.				
My child is making good progress with reading.				
My child enjoys bringing books home from school to read.				
Preston Primary supports and encourages my child with his/her reading.				
A Reading Record which travels between home and school is/would be valued and useful.				
My child tries to read in everyday situations (i.e. road signs, labels, shop posters).				
My child reads a wide range of texts, e.g. stories, poetry, information books, instructions...				
I hear my child read.				
I talk to my child about what he/she is reading.				
I ask questions to make sure my child understands what he/she has read.				
My child visits the library.				
I enjoy reading.				
I read in front of my child.				

What stimulates your child to read?

How do you incorporate a reading routine into a busy home life?

How do you feel Preston Primary could further motivate your child to engage with reading?

Is there any further support we could offer to help your child develop as a reader?

Any additional comments.

Foundation Stage

Our topic this term is: '**All About Me.**'

Nursery

In Communication, Language and Literacy, we will be sharing stories about children, families and schools. The children will role play using their imagination. We will focus on different rooms in the house. We will enjoy listening to and using spoken and written language and develop this through play. We will encourage the children to link sounds to letters. The children will also be encouraged to be aware of print in their environment and to enjoy sharing books.

In Mathematical Development, we will be looking at number recognition and counting at every opportunity! This will include singing number rhymes and songs. We will compare quantities and size, using language such as 'more' and 'less' and 'big' and 'little'.

The children will have the opportunity to bake foods often related to the topic and we will be introducing a wide range of vocabulary to discuss colour, texture, smell and taste.

We will be looking at our bodies and exploring our senses. We will also be looking at and discussing the seasonal changes.

The topics will involve the children in a range of creative experiences including painting, gluing and modelling with a range of materials. They will work collaboratively in groups as well as independently.

In P.E. we will focus on developing physical skills, including coordination and balance, moving skills, fine motor and gross motor skills, listening, responding and healthy lifestyles. We will also focus on circle time activities as well as considering the 'New Beginnings' topic to enhance social and emotional skills.

Mrs. Coates
Nursery Teacher

Reception / Year 1

In Reception and Year1 we will be focusing on building the key skills which will help the children to become confident readers, writers and mathematicians!

We will be having a daily phonics lesson to introduce the children to both letter names and letter sounds. Reception children will be learning how to put the sounds together to build words e.g. c-a-t, and also how to break words down into the sounds and letters from which they are created. Alongside this, children will be learning some 'tricky' words by sight.

The Reception children will be bringing home a 'Sound Book' each Friday which will enable parents to practise the work which has been introduced that week. The children will be regularly assessed and only when they have understood the first introductory phase will they progress to the next level, so they will really benefit from extra practise at home!

Year1 children will also be following a daily phonics program. In this session they will be working with children from both Year 1 Classes.

In Numeracy, children will be learning to recognise numerals and their relative values, extending the work they have covered in Nursery i.e. which is the biggest number, one more than and one less than etc. Year 1 children will be introduced to basic calculations. We will also be looking at simple aspects of shape and measures.

Fine motor skills will focus on developing a correct pencil grip and beginning to follow basic patterns and shapes, leading on to correct letter and number formation.

In P.E. Mrs. Shields will be introducing simple games and also dance.

We will be looking at various aspects of our topic, '**All About Me**' including the senses, similarities and differences and what makes us special. Children will have the opportunity to experiment with paints and materials, and will be developing their ICT skills by using digital cameras, Beebots (programmable robots) and both computers and Macbooks in the classroom.

It will really benefit your child if you can practise their sound work each week and hear them read regularly. I will be giving you lots more information about how you can help as the term progresses.

Mrs. Platts & Mrs. Shields.
Reception / Year 1 Teachers

Year 1 & Year 2

I am excited to be beginning my teaching career here at Preston Primary School and am looking forward to working with the children and yourselves towards a successful year.

Literacy this term will begin by exploring the structure of '**Traditional Stories**'. The children will be investigating the characteristics of 'good' and 'bad' characters and will also have the opportunity to create their own traditional story. We will be looking at a range of stories from other cultures and how they compare to stories from our culture. Our poetry theme is '**Poems on a Theme**'. We will be reading a variety of poems relating to similar themes and the children will be given the opportunity to write their own poem. In addition, we will be learning how to write instructions, looking at examples from a wide range of media which we will then use as a basis for writing our own instructions.

Spellings this term will be based upon the letter and sounds work that the children are covering in their 'phonic groups'. It is very beneficial for children to practise their spellings at home and your support with this is much appreciated.

In Mathematics the children will be extending their counting skills, practising to count, in order, forwards and backwards and further developing their addition and subtraction skills. We will also be learning about the place value of numbers. This will involve understanding the value of each digit in any 2 digit number. Children will be involved in making approximate estimations for a number of objects. Alongside number work, children will be taught the names and features of 2D and 3D shapes. Reinforcement of shape recognition at home will be valuable to their learning. Additionally, we will be comparing the weight and measurement of objects.

This term our topic will be based on the theme of '**Fire**'. We will be studying the history of the Great Fire of London. This will involve the children in identifying and highlighting the facts in order to create a newspaper report of the event. The topic will also cover fire safety and fireworks.

Miss Blair
Year 1 / Year 2 Teacher

Year 2 / Year 3 / Year 4

The areas for study in Literacy this term will include writing reports and instructions, looking at stories with familiar settings and Myths and Legends from Russia.

I hope the booklet with ideas to help support your child's reading will be helpful, as talking to your child about their reading is a very important part of developing their understanding and comprehension skills, particularly as they become more independent as readers. Children are encouraged to change their home reading books regularly and ten minutes each day sharing, reading or discussing the book your child is reading is an invaluable way of supporting their learning in school.

Maths homework has already been sent home in the form of a booklet of maths tasks for the first half term. To be a good mathematician children need to have a) a sound understanding of the vocabulary related to Maths b) knowledge of mathematical facts e.g. times tables, number bonds, c) strategies for working out answers to problems.

Lessons in school cover all these areas and the homework is designed to support this and give further practise to reinforce these aims. If you feel you'd like help supporting your child or if you feel your child is struggling with their homework then please pop in and see me. From discussions with parents, I realise that Maths is often an area of the curriculum where confidence is weakest. However, I can not say often enough that Maths is such a big part of our everyday lives and making your child aware of the maths all around them is a great way of building confidence in a fascinating subject!

Back in school, our cross-curricular topic is based on the **Romans** and we'll be studying the foundation and spread of the Roman Empire, lifestyle and inventions. We will finish with a D/T project that ties in with History and Science when we design and make catapults!

The Science topics this term are **Properties of Materials** and **Light and Shadows**. In PE the class will be swimming and developing skills in football and gymnastics whilst our theme for R.E is 'Making Promises'.

Learning to speak, read and write French will also form part of this term's work, starting with simple conversations and everyday vocabulary, including counting.

Mrs Cotton
Year 2 / Year 3 / Year 4 Teacher

Year 4 / Year 5

Literacy

We will study a range of text types this term including historical fiction, explanation texts, instructions and traditional texts such as fables, myths and legends.

Reading and exploring a range of texts at home is important, i.e. newspapers, diaries, stories, instructions etc. Children will be able to take reading books home and I ask that you encourage your child to read these books and return them to school when finished. They will normally be changed on a Thursday afternoon, but I recognise that some books may take a longer or shorter time to read. Many children enjoy selecting from a wide and varied choice of books. Visits to the local library are a great way of extending the choice.

Numeracy

Helping your child develop an understanding of Maths through everyday situations is very important and you could help greatly by involving your child when shopping (money), checking the TV schedule (time), buying a new carpet (area), cooking (measuring) etc. It's about keeping your mind open to sneaking Maths into your child's life without them noticing! You may also wish to help with their weekly Schofield and Simms task. The most important aspect of this is to encourage your child to explain the strategies they are using to solve the problem. You can buy these from bookshops such as Borders and they are relatively cheap. Feel free to pop into school and ask me about your child's work.

Your child has received a new homework folder. Within it, is a Times Table Homework Booklet. Every sheet has the date written on it when it will be marked. Please ensure the folder comes back and forth between home and school each day. I would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to work at his / her times tables. Regular tests will take place relating to times tables and rewards given to those who are successful.

Topic

We are studying the Victorians throughout the Autumn Term. This learning will be brought into other subjects such as Literacy and Art. If you have any artifacts or child-friendly resources, we would welcome the opportunity to share them with the class.

Science

Gases all around us

The children will be taught to recognise that air is one of a range of gases which have an important use. To know that liquids evaporate to form gases and that gases can change shape and flow from place to place. We shall be learning to measure volumes of liquid accurately and to make clear distinctions between the properties of solids, liquids and gases. The children will recognise when observations and measurements need to be repeated and provide explanations for what they have observed.

Changing state

During the second half of the term the children will name and describe examples of the main processes associated with water changing state and recognise that these processes can be reversed. The children will be able to explain the water cycle and use patterns in data to make predictions, explaining how changing conditions affects processes such as evaporation and condensation.

Mr Robinson and Mrs Shields
Year4 / Year 5 Teachers

Year 6

I hope you all had an enjoyable break and that the children are refreshed, energised and 'raring to go!' This is a particularly important year for your child and I do hope we are able to work together to ensure it is a happy and successful one.

Below is a brief outline of what we will be studying in the Autumn Term.

Numeracy

This term we will be concentrating on: **place value, ordering and rounding numbers, using calculators, working with fractions and decimals and interpreting and drawing graphs and charts.** We will continue with the very successful **Schofield and Simms Mental Maths scheme.** It would be of great benefit to your

child if you could help them with the learning of their **times tables**. Good Mental Maths skills lead to much greater overall mathematical confidence (and success!). In addition, children can learn so much about Maths as it surrounds them every day. Please do take time to point out Maths in the environment – such as: times on clocks (including 24hr clock timetables), right angles, symmetry, perimeters (of table tops, carpets etc.), areas and percentages (including shop sales – 20% off etc.). If you are able to regularly discuss these every day examples with your child, you will be amazed at the positive impact this has on their learning as they see Maths in ‘real life’ situations rather than a page in a text book. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Literacy

We will be looking at **poetry, story writing, playscripts and persuasive writing**. We will be focussing on our **speaking and listening** skills as we incorporate drama and debates into our curriculum. Please encourage your child to read at home and do ask them about what they have read. Our curriculum evening in September demonstrated the impact effective questioning can have on your child’s reading. The hope is that your child sees reading as enjoyable and worthwhile. Research has suggested that confident readers usually make confident writers.

History

Our topic this term is ‘**The Ancient Greeks**’ and we will be looking at the major cities and landmarks in modern day Greece, before moving on to look at ancient customs and traditions. We will study the legacies of Ancient Greece. To help further enhance our learning, we hope to visit The Bowes Museum this Autumn.

Science

In Science we will be studying **Forces** (including gravity, air & water resistance and friction), **Light & Sound** and **reversible/irreversible changes**. The children will be designing and carrying out **fair tests** and will be making predictions and conclusions.

Mrs. Shields will be teaching a considerable proportion of the Y6 Science curriculum.

ICT

We will be working with ‘**i-movie**’, ‘**i-animation**’ and ‘**multi-media**’ programs. The children will use ICT to assist with most other areas of the curriculum.

Art

This term the children will be learning about and developing their **printing** skills. We will also be entering a ‘Stay Safe’ art competition organised by Cleveland Police.

Technology

We will be **designing, making and evaluating** food products – including sandwiches.

Children will be adapting their work in the light of evaluations made.

P.E

‘**Gymnastics**’ and ‘**Team Games**’ are the themes for this term - please ensure your child has the appropriate kit in school every Tuesday and Wednesday. Some lessons will be held outdoors and a track-suit is recommended for these sessions. Please do ensure your child has an appropriate PE kit in line with school policy. Children are reminded that no jewellery should be worn in school.

R.E

In R.E. we will be reflecting on stories from the **Old Testament** and how we can learn from the moral messages inherent in these stories. Later in the term we will be studying Christmas words and images

Homework will be set each Monday and marked/tested on a Friday. Your support with this work is invaluable and very much appreciated as we aim to work closely in partnership with you to ensure your child reaches his/her full potential.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.
I very much look forward to meeting with you.

Mr.D.Clift
Year 6 Teacher