

PRESTON HEDGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PHASE 3 NEWSLETTER

Friday 22nd September

HELLO FROM MRS HONEYWOOD

Welcome back! We are fully back into the swing of things here at Preston Hedge's. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break with your loved ones and are feeling invigorated for the term ahead. So many children have enjoyed sharing special stories of their summer holiday and I can tell many of them have made some very special memories with you!

Staff were keen to welcome children to their new classrooms (which you may have noticed have had a bit of a spruce up!) and get started on what promises to be a brilliant year for all involved.

As a team, not only have we been spending time improving the learning environment for children, but we have also been working hard on refining initiatives within the school. You may have heard about our Reading Recognition initiative, which promises to offer more simplicity and accessibility to our reading rewards. You might also want to speak to children about our '3, 2, 1 – eyes on me' approach which helps retain pace, engagement and interaction during our lessons. I'm sure the children will be able to talk about both of these at length!

As always with the first newsletter, the entries below will inform you of what children will get up to this term as well as remind you of key messages from your Year Group Welcome Mornings.

YEAR 4

In Maths, Year 4 have been focusing on Number and calculation. They have learnt how to compare, order and round numbers and have moved onto column addition and subtraction. Later in the term, they will focus on multiplication and division and will finish the half term looking at fractions. The children continue to do their multiplication practise as well as arithmetic and reasoning each week to push their maths further.

In English, Year 4 have been focusing on writing a descriptive setting to build tension. The children have picked out language features as well as structural features of a descriptive setting to help them identify what they need to include in their writing. The children's current class read is 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by J.K. Rowling. The children read a part of this each afternoon before home time. Later in the term, the children's writing genre will follow their class read book as they will begin to create a formal letter and biography relating to this.

Our current curriculum topic is 'Metropolis'. The children are learning about Northampton as a town and then comparing this to three cities from around the world. They will focus their knowledge on London, Washington D.C. and Bern. They will be exploring where the cities are located, their key landmarks and architecture and the famous rivers that are found in these cities. To add to our wider curriculum, we have been exploring music through learning how to sing the song 'Mamma Mia' by ABBA and will be including instruments with this. Within PE, the children will be learning new skills relating to indoor athletics and football. This will be split between their indoor and outdoor weekly sessions.

In RE, we are looking at Christianity and Hinduism and understanding the meanings behind different beliefs and practices. The children will be completing a range of practical activities as well as research-based activities to help them learn more about the religions. The children use different skills within these lessons including: drama, research and art which incorporates skills from other areas of the curriculum into their RE sessions.

Our Science topic this term is focussed on all things 'Electricity'. The children are learning all about electricity and it's used within day-to-day life as well as the important inventors who have influenced modern day living. Through this the children will engage with practical experiments and written investigations to discover what electricity is, what it's used for and how it's used in our lives.



YEAR 5

What a wonderful start the children have had to Year 5! The children have settled into their new routines exceptionally well and are already demonstrating their love for learning.

During this term, we will be focusing on place value and calculation in Mathematics. The children will be working on partitioning and the four operations. They will also start to apply this to solving problems.

In English, we are currently writing a suspense narrative with a tonal shift, based on the short film 'Alma.' The children will have the opportunity to practise and use figurative language such as metaphors and particular personification to develop mood and tone. Later in the term, we will be writing diary entries from multiple perspectives based around Anne Frank's diary as well as analysing a selection of poetry.

This term, in Geography, we will be exploring 'The Seven Natural Wonders,' researching natural landmarks such as The Grand Canyon, Victoria Falls and The Great Barrier Reef. We are excited to use the VR headsets to engage with some of these breath-taking locations as well as conducting a debate about the impact of climate change and tourism.

In Science this term we will be investigating properties and their materials, focusing on reversible and irreversible changes and the formation of new materials. We are really excited to see how the children can apply prior knowledge in this area as we know they love Science!

In Music we are exploring 'rock' as a genre and learning Bon Jovi's 'Living on a Prayer.' In Art, the children will be exploring how we can create typography through drawing and design and use our skills to create personal and highly visual maps. Throughout Year five we will focus on Christianity and Sikhism in RE. We will explore the Sikh Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib, and the festival of Vaisakhi. It's promising to be a busy but exciting year!



YEAR 6

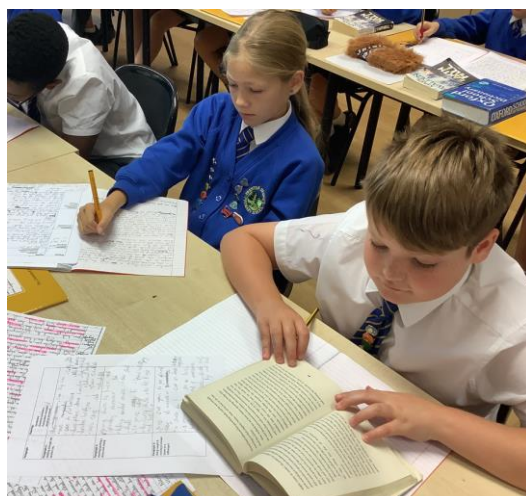
The children are now in their final year of PHPS, although it seems hard to believe they are here already! The term already promises to be a busy one with 6A off to swimming every Monday, which has proven to be a success so far.

In Science, children have been discovering the components of the human body in our Animals Including Humans unit, in particular the cardiovascular and digestive systems. Children will be exploring the make-up of blood and we will be giving them an opportunity to create a model of this. Additionally, they will be exploring how our lifestyle choices can impact our body and the ways in which this could occur.

'Earthfall' has been our focus text in English so far this term, which the children have absolutely loved. They have been plunging into the text at any given opportunity and this has resulted in some fantastic dystopian writing for our unit on Setting Descriptions. It has been a real pleasure to read them! Our weekly comprehension lessons have continued alongside this where we will be concentrating on retrieval and word meaning.

In Maths, we have been securing our understanding of number and calculation. As always, we have applied our knowledge to reasoning challenges and will continue to do so on a weekly basis.

Our children are thrilled to be learning the song 'Happy' in Music this term! The children have been learning to listen and appraise music and make links to other music that they are aware of. In RE, we are studying Christianity, in particular looking at the Lord's Prayer and how, why and when it is most commonly used.



HOMEWORK

A reminder for parents about the homework expectations for each year group:

Year Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading 5 times a week• Wednesday – Spelling (with SPaG on alternate Wednesdays)• Friday – Maths• All to be handed in the following Wednesday
Year Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading 5 times a week• Wednesday – Spelling (to be handed in the following Wednesday)• Friday – Maths (to be handed in the following Thursday)
Year Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading 5 times a week• Friday – Spelling, Maths and SPaG (to be handed in the following Wednesday)• This is subject to change after SATs

Our Reading Recognition initiative also celebrates the reading that children complete at home with our grid-ticking system. Please do tick a box at the front of your child's journal every time they read their reading for learning book at home.

PE REMINDER

As mentioned in our recent welcome to the year meetings, children need to attend school in appropriate PE kit on their allocated PE day. All jewellery including earrings and watches must be removed and long hair tied back. If recently pierced earrings can't be removed, children will be unable to participate in practical activities but can still join in the daily mile. The slides from the welcome meeting are all available on our website in the correspondence section.

DATES

Reading workshop – Tuesday 26th September

SPaG workshop – 3rd Oct

Thank you for your continued support here at Preston Hedge's

Mrs Honeywood