



Preston Hedges Primary School
Wootton Hope Drive, Wootton Fields
Northampton NN4 6BU

☎ 01604 665860

✉ tracey.coles@prestonhedges.org

🌐 prestonhedges.northants.sch.uk

PRESTON HEDGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PHASE 3 NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th November

HELLO FROM MRS HONEYWOOD

Another busy term is well underway here at Preston Hedge's. The term kicked off with children enjoying celebrating Halloween at the disco (with huge thanks to the FOPH) in which we saw some excellent costumes!

We spent time reflecting on Armistice Day with an assembly which explained the reason for this important day. This then helped us to spend more time reflecting on what Remembrance means to us in class, discussing this concept both from the perspective of WW2 and in relation to the world we live in today.

Children also had great fun celebrating Diwali! It was amazing to see children don such wonderfully bright clothes for the event. In school, a range of fantastic activities were planned by teachers to really immerse the children in the celebrations. Those celebrating Diwali at home also spoke amazingly well about their experiences which was incredibly interesting for all to hear.

Amongst all these wonderful experiences, we've also found the time to schedule drama workshops for all year groups, trampolining sessions for Y4 and swimming sessions for 6H. Not only this, but of course our fantastic curriculum has taken centre stage around this too! Read on to find out more about the goings on of Phase Three so far this term...

YEAR 4

In Maths, Year 4 have been focusing on Measure. They have learnt how to convert between different measures and calculate the area and perimeter of shapes. Later in the term, they will focus on properties of shapes and lines of symmetry and will finish the half term looking at tables and pictograms within statistics. 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 formal letter. The children have picked out language features as well as structural features of a formal letter to help them identify what they need to include in their writing. The topic they have been focusing on is 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. Later in the term, the children's writing will start to theme around our new History topic of 'Ancient Civilisations'.

Our current curriculum topic is 'Ancient Civilisations'. The children are learning about a variety of different ancient civilisations. They will focus their knowledge on Shang Dynasty, Ancient Maya, Ancient Benin and Early Islamic Civilisations. They will be exploring where the civilisations were located, their key leaders/people, artefacts and key events that occurred. To add to our wider curriculum, we have been exploring music through learning how to play the glockenspiel and will be singing alongside this skill too.

Within Science, the children have been focusing on their new topic of 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. They will be classifying animals, learning about vertebrates and invertebrates, discovering habitats and microhabitats and investigating the impacts of global warming upon animal's habitats and environments. We will have a special visit from Raptor Dave who will bring a variety of animals for the children to see, touch and hold and will provide a workshop for the children to learn about those particular animal's environments and habitats.

Within PE, the children will be attending their weekly trampolining sessions where they will be exposed to expert coaching from the NTGA coaches to improve their knowledge and skills on the sport. Alongside this, they will also be learning new skills relating to netball. These will take place whilst at Benham for their trampolining 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.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have a very exciting half term leading up to Christmas. Firstly, our Macbeth project with Silhouette Youth Theatre is underway and the children have thrown themselves into the experience with enthusiasm; it seems we have many budding actors in our midst!

Alongside Year 6, we have also begun rehearsals for our Christmas Production: A Christmas Carol.

In the classroom, we will be focusing on measures, shape and statistics in Mathematics. They will also start to apply this to solving problems. In English, we are currently writing a witness statement based on The Christmas Truce (WW1) and will soon moving onto writing a narrative from an alternative perspective. In our text analysis lessons we will be focusing on developing our retrieval skills.

This term in History we have begun our work on the unit, World at War, this term we are focusing on World War 1. We will be completing map work and diary writing as well as engaging in debates and drama to explore the key historical events. In Science this term we will be continuing to investigate properties and their materials, focusing on reversible and irreversible changes and the formation of new materials. In Music we are exploring 'jazz' as a genre alongside learning songs for the production. Some children will also have the opportunity to take part in song-writing workshops lead by Silhouette Youth Theatre. In DT, the children will be using a range of woodwork skills to design and create bridges to fit a brief. This term we have also begun our work on Sikh Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib, and the festival of Vaisakhi.



YEAR 6

With 6A's swimming sessions coming to a close, we now welcome 6H to the swimming pool with a term's worth of exciting swimming lessons for them all. The first couple of sessions have gone amazingly well, with children showing fantastic water confidence.

Back at school, children have been learning about the Vietnam War: how and why it started, how communism and democracy were responsible and which countries were communist and democratic at the time. The children were able to understand and comment on the chain of events leading up to this war confidently, showing a real appreciation for History.

Our new Science unit is Electricity. Children have explored key vocabulary linked to this topic (particularly from Y4) and have been able to articulate what they already know. We now look forward to learning about electrical circuits in more detail, particularly where voltage and wattage is concerned.

We move onto Humanism in RE, where children will be learning about the similarities and differences between this and previously studied religions.

A hot topic in Y6 at the moment is the Christmas production – A Christmas Carol – which is proving to be one of the most exciting events of the year! Children have been busy learning lines for auditions and we now look forward to getting rehearsals underway!



DATES AND REMINDERS

Thursday 30th November – FOPH Wreath Making

Friday 1st December – Reception Nativity

Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 8th December – Breakfast with Santa (KS1)

Thursday 14th December – Christmas lunches, reindeer visits & Christmas Craft afternoon

Monday 18th/Tuesday 19th December – Y5/6 Christmas Production

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

Mrs Honeywood