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PRESTON HEDGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PHASE 3 NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th January

[Happy New Year!](#)

We hope you and your children feel settled into the new term after the Christmas break. The term has got off to a busy start across the phase with the children being immersed into their curriculum topics across the board.

We continue to be amazed at the enthusiasm and energy for learning that is displayed by children in Phase 3. We love that children come to school eager to learn and we thank you for your continued support! Please read on to find out more about each year group in the phase.

[YEAR 4](#)

In Maths, Year 4 have been focusing back on number. They have been recapping their multiplication and division skills and applying those to word problems and reasoning questions. Towards the end of the term, we will be recapping and extending our knowledge on fractions, decimals and percentages through weekly practise, reasoning questions and bookwork. 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 non-chronological report. The children have picked out language features as well as structural features of a non-chronological report to help them identify what they need to include in their writing. The topic they have been focusing on is 'South America' because

this links to their current Geography topic. Later in the term, the children's writing will start to theme around our new class reader book 'Gangsta Granny'. Our current curriculum topic is 'Fiesta in the South'. The children are learning all about South America. They will focus their knowledge on the different countries, climate, biomes and features of South America. They will be exploring where the continent is located, what countries are in South America, what their capital cities are and the key rivers and mountains that can be found across the continent. To add to our wider curriculum, we have been exploring music through learning a rap called 'Stop Bullying' and will be using instruments alongside this. The children will eventually be composing their own raps.

Within Science, the children have been focusing on their new topic of 'Animals Including Humans'. They will be learning about the digestive system, teeth, food chains and different food groups. They will be exploring how all these topics relate to different animals, including humans. They have also recreated their own digestive system in a practical experiment.

Within PE, 4C will be attending their weekly swimming sessions where they will be exposed to expert coaching from professional swimming coaches to improve their knowledge and skills on the sport. Alongside this, 4H will be developing their PE skills back at school by learning new skills relating to Hockey as a sport. They will also be improving their gymnastics skills as they add to the skills that they learnt last term.

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 are in the midst of another exciting half term! Macbeth rehearsals continue, ahead of our upcoming performance in May and some of our children have recently completed their Level 1 and 2 Bikeability Course.

In Mathematics this term we will be revisiting and deepening our learning in number, fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also continue to focus on speed and accuracy in arithmetic and applying our knowledge in problem solving. In English, we have been busy writing the prologue to a story and will soon moving onto writing a letter of complaint, linked to our Geography unit, The American Dream. We will be writing to the Biden Administration complaining about the Colorado River Crisis.

This term in Geography we have begun our work on the unit, The American Dream, focusing on locational and cultural geography within the USA. In Science we are busy investigating forces; we will be conducting investigations such as how to design and create the safest parachute for a skydiver. In Art we have begun our first fashion unit of the year; the children will be using a range of design skills such as printing and textile surface design.



YEAR 6

We are off to a flying start in Year Six! In English, we have been finishing our 'personal growth' narratives whilst also focusing on key skills in reading comprehension. The children have been identifying the different question types that they may encounter and have been looking at clues in the question to help us formulate answers.

In Maths, we have been focusing on number, particularly percentages, fractions and calculations. We have also been looking at statistics in reasoning to solve problems in different contexts.

In Science, we are consolidating our knowledge on Electricity before moving onto our next Science topic: Light. The children have been experimenting with a range of electrical equipment to understand how different circuit types work. They have also been looking at how different measures of wattage and voltage impact on electrical products.

Our Geography unit this term links heavily to last term's topic of the Vietnam War; we are now studying the geography of Vietnam. The children firstly explored key facts about Asia, including major countries and capital cities and the surrounding bodies of water. We then progressed onto the human and physical geography of Asia before focusing on Vietnam more closely where we also tried our hardest to use vocabulary from our Geography Glossary to explain our findings. Pinpointing exceptional areas of Vietnam proved really interesting for the children too - looking at the Mekong Delta was a particular highlight for the children!

In PE, we are looking at Gymnastics and Hockey. In Hockey, children have been focusing on attacking and defending whilst attempting a range of passes. In Gymnastics, the children have been looking at how extension and stability can be used within sequencing. It's been a pleasure to see how well the children have been collaborating in their projects and games.

In RE, the topic of Humanism has been explored and we have been comparing the ideas and values behind Humanism to other religions and cultures. The children have displayed a fantastic understanding of the similarities and differences between the religions we focus on in school.

We enjoyed having our 'Red Card to Racism' workshops earlier in the term. The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school; they discussed mutual respect and tolerance amazingly well and understood how discrimination can take many forms.



DATES AND REMINDERS

Wednesday 7th February – Y6 Young Citizens Day @ Deco Theatre

Friday 8th March – FOPH Mothers' Day Bake Sale

Wednesday 13th March – Y5 Macbeth Performance

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