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PRESTON HEDGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PHASE 3 NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd May

HELLO FROM MRS HONEYWOOD

Welcome to another instalment of the Phase Three Newsletter. The term has got off to a busy start with all year groups indulging themselves into the curriculum. It's been fantastic to see year four and five throw themselves into projects involving outside agencies; we are so lucky to have these opportunities at PHPS!

It seems hard to believe that we are now just one term away from the end of the academic year. There are still so many fantastic things to come for our children but please do read below to find out what they have been up to most recently.

YEAR 4

In Maths, Year 4 have been focusing on decimals and fractions. They are learning how to convert a fraction to a decimal and vice versa. They will soon be learning how to compare and order a fraction to a decimal using their greater than, less than and equal too symbols. Year 4 continue to practise their multiplications as well as arithmetic and reasoning every week.

In English, Year 4 have been writing a podcast about Ernest Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica. The children have picked out the key features of a podcast, including both language features as well as structural features. These features help the children know what a podcast is and how they can include them into their writing. Later in the term, the children's writing will start to theme around our new class read, 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

Our current curriculum topic is 'Life on the Edge'. The focus for the children is different types of deserts. They will focus their knowledge on both hot and cold deserts across the

world. They will be exploring these locations in relation to the equator and where each one is located. This will enable the children to understand the impact climate has, over a long period of time, on an area. To add to our wider curriculum, Year 4 are having weekly clarinet lessons from music teachers from NMPAT, which will culminate in a group performance.

Within Science, the children have been learning about their new topic of 'States of Matter'. They have learnt what the three states of matter are and how we can change these states from one, to another through heating and cooling. Later in the term, the children will learn what the water cycle is and how all the states of matter impact how this process happens. We will also be going on a trip to the Think Tank to explore a range of science topics and how the world around us has an impact on our daily lives.

In RE, we are continuing to look at Christianity and Hinduism and understanding the stories of God and what the Hindu deities mean to their religion. 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 equipment and skills within these RE lessons to try a variety of learning tools. Some skills that we include are: drama, research and art which incorporates tools from other areas of the curriculum into their RE sessions.

Within PE, the children have started to practise their ball and racquet skills to apply it to a full game of tennis. As part of the class assembly, they will also be learning dances that are associated with different cultures and themes.



YEAR 5

This term Year 5 are extremely busy with final rehearsals for their Macbeth performance; we are excited to share the final product with you all and are sure that they will blow you away! We have been so impressed with the hard work and determination that they have demonstrated throughout the process, as well as the support and encouragement offered by the rest of the year group.

In the classroom, Year 5 are undertaking a brand-new Geography unit: From Farm to Fork. So far, we have explored Where our food come from; what seasonality is and what this means for produce grown with the UK; the food journey of a variety of foods which we consume regularly; the benefits and negatives of importing and exporting and the distribution of the three main types of farming: arable, pastoral and mixed. In the coming weeks we will explore how farming has changed within the last 50 years and is continuing to change and evolve due to climate change. The children have scrutinised a range of primary and secondary sources to gather a wealth of information and have had opportunity to debate key issues.

In English, we are busy writing a Newspaper report, detailing the disappearance of Alma Ortega - a fictional character whom the children are extremely fond of! Year 5 have had the opportunity to act as journalists by writing a range of purposeful questions and interviewing characters at the heart of the story. They have also worked hard on their use of reported and direct speech and formal linguistic devices.

In Maths we are revisiting our Number and Fractions units - consolidating the children's knowledge and stretching their capabilities.

In PE 5B have been enjoying their swimming lessons while 5R are awaiting their turn eagerly, whilst enjoying their tennis unit ahead of our annual Mini Wimbledon Event. In Art the children are exploring the work of Hans Wegner and Arne Jacobsen as part of the unit, 'Take A Seat' where they are designing and drawing their own chair. In Science, we are learning all about, 'Animals and Living Things,' particularly exploring the work of Sir David Attenbrough.



YEAR 6

Term five is a busy one for our Y6 children as we prepare for the upcoming SATs which take place on the week commencing 13th May. The children are now busy revising key skills across our core curriculum and many children have taken opportunities to indulge in some personal study which we have been very impressed with.

In Geography, we have launched our new topic of 'Our World, Our Future', where we have been finding out about different types of energy and discussing how sustainable they are for the future of our planet. Each week, we discuss a new type of energy, share the benefits and risks of them, then record our findings. Our information will then be used to create a 'Newsround'-style television programme, all about the future of our planet.

In Science, we have been learning about Evolution and Inheritance. They have been learning about the concept of evolution and inheritance in all living things and we will explore this in more depth further into the term.

The children have really enjoyed our Art lessons so far this term, in which we have been learning about the history of shadow puppets and then creating our own shadow puppet stories. The planning and designing process has been great fun and we now look forward to putting our ideas into motion.

We have begun to explore Buddhism in RE and have been making comparisons between this religion and religions previously studied. We look forward to taking the children to a Buddhist Centre later next term to help immerse us into the concept of Buddhism more. Information about this will be with you in due course.

In PE, children have had great fun extending their gymnastics abilities during their indoor PE sessions. Outside, the children have been refining their tennis skills which I'm sure will come in very useful as we have our Mini Wimbledon event next term!



DATES AND REMINDERS

Tuesday 7th May – Y5 Macbeth performance 7pm

Wednesday 8th May – Y6 Residential Parent meeting 7pm

Monday 13th May – Y6 SATs week

Friday 17th May – Y4 assembly

Monday 20th May – Y4 trip – Thinktank

Tuesday 21st May – Y6 trip to Oxford University (letter to be sent in due course).

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

Mrs Honeywood