



**PRESTON HEDGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**PHASE 2 NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Year 3 and 4**

**HELLO FROM MR BALLISTON**

I was fortunate to join Year 3 on their educational trip to the Verulamium Museum in St. Albans earlier this week. We had a super day and the children enjoyed exploring a live excavation site, many Roman artefacts and a very informative and 'hands on' workshop. The behaviour was excellent and the children's knowledge was certainly enhanced by this visit. A huge thank you to the parents who helped support the trip. I have also been very impressed with how Year 4 are developing their IT skills with their tablets in the classroom. I know this is certainly helping improve their multiplication skills – please keep learning these as they underpin so much of the Maths they do in school.



Phase Two yet again have an action-packed term ahead and this includes sports tournaments, money workshops, a trip to Hazard Alley (Y4), a Science Dome for Year 4 to explore and a Worldly Wise week. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, a broad and balanced curriculum enables children to thrive in school and develop a love of learning. Please read on to find out more about this term.



## YEAR 3

In **Maths**, Year 3 have been focusing on reading and writing the time on an analogue clock using roman numerals. They have also been identifying and measuring the perimeter of a 2D shape. Towards the end of the term, we will be focusing our learning on capacity. The children continue to do their weekly arithmetic and reasoning lessons as well as their multiplication practise.

In **English**, Year 3 have been focusing on re-telling a narrative based on Hansel and Gretel. The children have identified language and structural features as well as creating a setting and character description. They will use all of this learning to re-tell the story of Hansel and Gretel in their Big Write. Later in the term, the children's writing will be focused on writing a play script.



Our current curriculum topic is '**Romans**'. The children are learning all about the Roman era. They will focus their knowledge on when the Roman invasion happened, what the Romans brought to Britain and the key leaders of that time. We have just returned from the Verulamium, where the children explored an excavation site and had an interactive session learning about lots of the interesting artefacts found in the Verulamium. The children had a fantastic time on this trip! Towards the end of term, they will be learning all about Queen Boudica.



Within **Science**, the children have been continuing their learning on the topic 'Animals including Humans'. They have been learning about the human skeleton, muscles and the main organs in the body. Towards the end of this term, they will be completing an experiment to see how far they can jump and if the size of their femur impacts this.



Within **PE**, Year 3 will be developing their PE skills by learning the skills associated to tag rugby. They will then be learning which direction to pass the ball and how to move into space during a game. In addition, Year 3 are currently taking part in gymnastics. They have been learning about travelling, rolling and balancing.



In **RE**, we are looking at Christianity, learning about the different genres of the Bible. The children will be exploring the differences between psalms, proverbs and laws and what they teach. In addition, the children will also learn the story of St Francis and learn more about our local churches.

In **DT**, the children are learning how to make a healthy and nutritious snack. They have been learning how to store and prepare food hygienically and what types of foods are healthy. Towards the end of term, they will be using this knowledge to design and make a healthy snack.

## YEAR 4

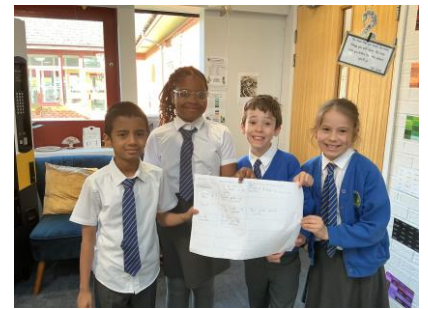
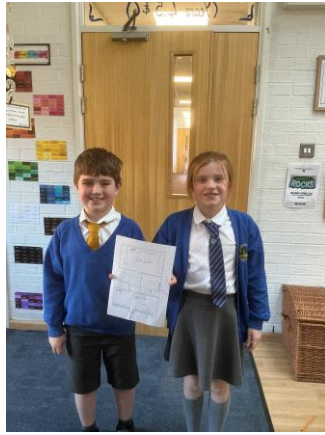
In **English** this half term, the children have been exploring the story *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams. Inspired by the humour and adventure in the story, the class have been writing their own stories to capture the humour. The children have been focusing on using descriptive language, exciting vocabulary and creative ideas to make their readers laugh and stay engaged. They have also been practising their punctuation, sentence structure and editing skills to improve their writing.



In **Maths**, Year 4 have been working hard on a range of topics. The children have been learning about fractions, including recognising and comparing different fractions. They have also been exploring measurement, practising how to measure and convert between different units. Alongside this, the class completes weekly arithmetic and reasoning activities to strengthen their problem-solving skills. The children are also practising daily for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), helping them to build confidence and speed with their times tables.

In **Science**, the class has been learning about food chains and ecosystems. The children have been exploring how living things depend on one another for food and survival. They have been identifying producers, consumers and predators and creating their own food chains. The class have also discussed how different habitats support a variety of plants and animals and why it is important to look after our environment.

In **History**, Year 4 have begun learning about the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. The children have been discovering where the Egyptians lived and how the River Nile helped their civilisation grow. They have started exploring daily life in Ancient Egypt and learning about important beliefs, traditions and achievements of this early civilisation. The class is looking forward to learning even more about pharaohs, pyramids and mummification in the coming weeks.



Each week, the children take part in a range of wider curriculum lessons including **RPHSE**. During these sessions, they learn about wellbeing, Modern British Values, online safety and water safety. These lessons help the children understand how to stay safe, respect others and make positive choices in everyday life. In **RE**, the children have been learning about different religions, focusing on Christianity and Hinduism. They have been exploring beliefs, traditions and important stories, helping them to develop respect and understanding for different cultures and faiths. In **Computing**, the children are learning about coding, developing their understanding of how programs are created and how instructions can be used to control actions on a computer. In **DT**, the children have been enjoying a practical project where they are designing and building their own sports arena. They have been thinking carefully about their designs, materials and structures while developing teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills.



## **DATES AND REMINDERS**

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day (non-uniform)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Worldly Wise Week - Gender Stereotype

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Parents' Evening

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Passover Celebration Day (non-uniform)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Whole School Friday Readers  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - break up for Easter holidays  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - school closed for Teacher Training Day  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April - school reopens to pupils

I hope you and your child/ren enjoy the last two weeks of term and the exciting activities we have planned.

Kind regards,

Mr. Balliston