



PRESTON HEDGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PHASE 3 NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd September

HELLO FROM MR AYRES

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a lovely summer and enjoyed the hot weather! I'm Mr Ayres, Phase 3 leader (years 4, 5 and 6). It's been great to see the children again and they have all settled in brilliantly! If you need to see me about anything, my door is always open, and you can contact the office where they will forward any correspondence straight onto me. You can also find me by the front gate every Wednesday.

Year group meetings have been held this week (for Year 6, the meeting is on Monday 26th September at 2:30pm) however, if you did miss these meetings, the PowerPoint slides will be sent out to all parents shortly. If you do have any queries or questions regarding the school year, please do not hesitate to contact your school teacher. Just to let you know, the PE days are as follows:

Year 4 - Thursday
Year 5 - Monday
Year 6 – Wednesday

Please ensure your child comes in their PE kit - preferably Preston Hedge's kit. We are fully aware that branded kit isn't always possible, but if school colours could be used in any alternatives, we would be very grateful.

YEAR 4



Our current curriculum topic in Year 4 is 'Ancient Civilizations' with a focus on Egypt and Greece. So far, the children have been exploring chronology within history and

understanding where each ancient Civilisation occurred. They have had the opportunity to use atlases as well as research what the modern countries are and how they have changed. The children have also looked at two main rulers, Tutankhamun and Cleopatra. They have had the opportunity to put themselves into the role of these rulers to help them understand more about what life was like for them. We are also linking this topic with fine art, where the children will be working towards creating Egyptian wall art, incorporating the use of hieroglyphs and various materials

In Maths, Year 4 have been working on addition and subtraction using a formal written method. The children have also been practising their times tables daily. They are engaging in arithmetic and reasoning questions weekly to allow them the opportunity to practice a variety of different questions.

In English, Year 4 have been planning and writing a setting description of a spooky forest. They have looked at key vocabulary and different language features and have had the opportunity to be hands on with a variety of resources which you would find in a forest to enable them to expand their descriptive language.



YEAR 5

Year 5 are very excited about their topic this term as we are beginning ‘The World at War’ and learning about World War One. The children have amazed us so far with their prior knowledge and have so far discussed the key causes of WW1 and the political leaders of the time. For our class read, we are reading the fantastic ‘Friend or Foe’ by Michael Morpurgo.

This term in Literacy, we are writing a suspense narrative using a tonal shift based on the short film ‘Alma’ as our inspiration. The children will be creating suspense and tension using language and structural techniques, aiming to intrigue the reader and write for a specific purpose. The children have shown real maturity and enthusiasm for this Big Write, and we have no doubt that their stories will be creative and show a real eye for fiction writing. Once that is complete, we will move onto writing a diary from multiple perspectives, using our curriculum topic, ‘World at War’, as the basis for our writing.

Finally, in Maths we are looking at Number and using our knowledge of the four operations to complete formal written methods. This includes continuing with our weekly Monday arithmetic and aiming to improve our mental calculations, as well as working towards more complex reasoning word problems involving the four operations covered this term.

Both myself and Miss Harvey have been extremely happy with the attitude to learning Year 5 have displayed so far and we are looking forward to what will be an excellent term.



YEAR 6

What an amazing start the Year 6 children have had. Mr Brennan and I have been really impressed at how quickly they have settled in and are looking forward to a great year ahead!

To start off the year, our first topic will be 'Vietnam'. This term, we are looking at the topography of Vietnam and the change this wonderful land has gone through. We will also be comparing the physical and human features of Vietnam to United Kingdom. Once we have studied the Geography of Vietnam, the children will explore the Vietnam War, looking at guerrilla warfare, the impact this had on society and the key historical facts of the war. We have lots planned for this topic including a debate on which country, England or Vietnam, would be best to have a holiday, creating an animal documentary with use of the radio station, looking at Buddhism and creating lots of artworks based on the Vietnam rainforest.

Keep an eye on Twitter for an insight into Year 6 life!

In English, we will be looking at the short story 'The Hook,' which is a descriptive terror tale.

Here, we will be analysing the language used to create an atmospheric effect in both this story and 'The Tell-tale Heart' – a classic written by Edgar Allan Poe. Our Big Write will be based on both stories combining an eerie atmosphere with character development.

In Maths, our focus this term is number. We will be revisiting the main 4 operations, fractions, decimals and percentages and BODMAS. On Fridays, the children will complete word problems based on what they have learnt that week to improve their reasoning skills.

Homework will be set on a Friday and will be due in on the following Wednesday. The homework will be an extension on what they children have learnt that week to secure their understanding. If your child is struggling with any homework, please ask them to bring it in and we will happily go through it with them.



HOMEWORK

Homework will also be set weekly. On Friday, expect to see Maths homework go home (due in the following Wednesday) and Reading homework will be set on a Thursday. Maths homework will be based on the learning your child has completed that week. If your child is struggling, or you need any guidance, please talk to your Maths teacher – they will be more than happy to help. Reading for Year 4 is a minimum of 45 minutes whilst Year 5 and 6 is a minimum of 60 minutes. Please record how many pages you have read, and minutes spent reading as your child works their way towards the “Star Reader” badge! You will also see spelling homework coming home weekly so please take some time to practise these.

DATES AND REMINDERS

Year 4 PE Day – every Thursday

Year 5 PE Day – every Monday

Year 6 PE Day – every Wednesday

Year 6 Buddhist trip – Monday 3rd October

Parents evenings – Thursday 13th and Thursday 20th October

Year 6 SATs meeting – Tuesday 15th November

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

Mr Ayres

