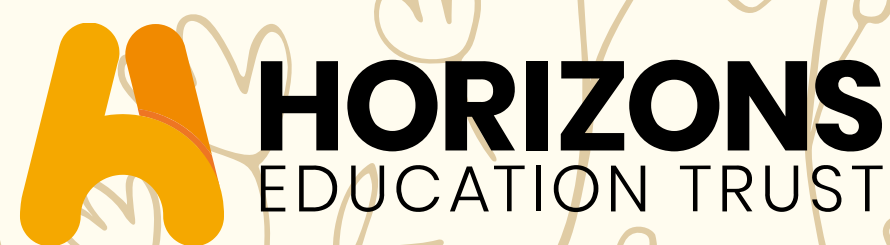


PRESTLEY POST

Spring Term 2 - 27.03.2026



Prestley Wood Academy



EDUCATE **EMPOWER** **ENRICH** **ENJOY**

Welcome to our Newsletter for the Spring 2 Term

As I write this, I'm seated in my office watching one class group eagerly set off into the local area to collaborate with a neighbouring school in our community garden, while another heads out in the minibus to support a local homeless charity. Moments like these are a powerful reminder of how important everyday experiences are for our young people. There is something grounding and reassuring about seeing our learners confidently out in the world, taking steps, both big and small, towards greater independence.

Although this has been a short spring term, it has been an important one. Our students completed their first residential and took part in their first practice walk for the Duke of Edinburgh expedition. These are significant milestones that encourage teamwork, build confidence, and extend learning beyond the classroom.

As headteacher, I deeply value these opportunities. They help our young people build the life skills, confidence, and resilience they need to participate in, and importantly, contribute to, the community around them. Each new experience, whether navigating unfamiliar environments, spending a night away from home, or interacting with new people, helps shape their understanding of themselves, their world, and the positive role they can play within it. Even in a short term, the progress is clear, and it is a privilege to witness it.

Many thanks to all our parents and carers for your continued support. It was lovely to catch up with some of you during Parents' Evening and at our open classroom event for Autism Week.

We wish you all a wonderful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 13th April 2026.

Caroline

Sycamore class have been volunteering! They have spent time litter picking in the local community, sorting clothes at a charity shop and delivering yummy sandwiches and snacks to a local homeless charity.

They have developed their community participation skills, independence, confidence, team work and work-related learning skills. They are now ready to run their own volunteering project... organising a coffee morning to fundraise for their chosen charity.

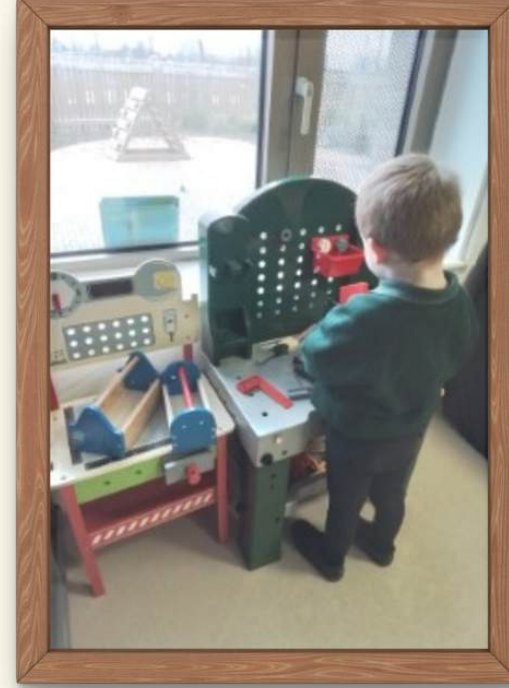


Forest School

In Forest School, pupils have been learning about tool safety and practising important practical skills. They used gardening forks and trowels to plant vegetables in our community garden, helping develop fine-motor skills, coordination, and independence.

Pupils also used palm drills to make tree-cookie necklaces, following steps carefully and working with focus with the support of staff. Some of our older pupils learnt how to use a bow saw safely in pairs, building teamwork, communication, and safe tool handling.

These activities support confidence, responsibility, and real-world outdoor learning.



Red Nose & World Down Syndrome Fundraiser



Thank you for your support last week! The children looked brilliant in their red outfits for Red Nose Day, and we loved seeing all the bright, bold socks for World Down Syndrome Day.

It was such a fun and colourful way to celebrate, and together we raised a wonderful £56.00 to support the charities.

My Creativity

Juniper Class have been exploring instruments and rhythm in our My Creativity sessions. The children practised copying, continuing, and creating rhythmic patterns, helping them develop their listening skills, communication, and confidence. They shared their rhythms with the class, providing a supportive opportunity to demonstrate their learning.



Autism Awareness

What a fantastic Autism Awareness Week we have had! Our pupils fully embraced the theme of 'Celebrating Differences', expressing themselves through a variety of creative outfits on our dress-up day.

Throughout the week, pupils had the opportunity to use their Maths and functional skills by running or purchasing from the cake sale, while also enjoying a wonderful selection of cakes.

Each class explored Autism in different ways, developing their understanding of what Autism is, the challenges and successes experienced by autistic individuals, and most importantly celebrating the value of our differences.



World Book Day 2026

- Prestley Wood Academy celebrated World Book Day by exploring the text “Dreams in a Jar.” Across the school, pupils engaged in a range of structured literacy activities designed to promote a love of reading and support communication, creativity and engagement with stories.

Classes took part in activities suited to their learning pathways, including creating magic wands, designing dream jars and exploring key themes from the book through sensory, visual and communication-based tasks. Some groups also completed short writing or mark-making activities linked to their individual goals.

We received thoughtful entries for our annual bookmark competition, showing pupils’ understanding of books, symbols and design. Many classes also took part in a “Where’s Wally?” search, which supported visual scanning, attention to detail and early reading behaviours in an accessible and enjoyable way.



Flipathon

Our learners took part in the Flipathon in Huntingdon Town Centre, gaining a valuable life learning experience. It was a great opportunity for them to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience while engaging with the local community. We're very proud of how well they represented the school!



SCA School Council



Our School Councillors met with pupils from Spring Common Academy. The two groups have met a couple of times before, and this visit helped them continue building their friendships.

The visiting pupils explored our school and spent time talking with our councillors. This gave everyone a chance to practise communication, share ideas, and work with peers they already know as they discussed their next project, "Our Environment."

Seeing familiar faces helps the children feel confident and comfortable as they take part in discussions together.

We look forward to more meetings like this in the future.

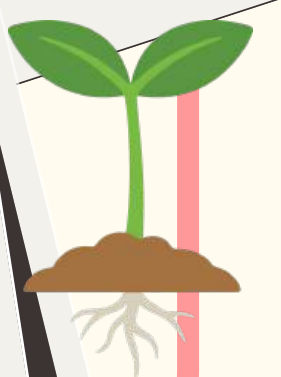
British Science Week



During British Science Week, the children explored a range of questions linked to this year's theme of curiosity. Each class investigated a scientific question connected to their current topic, supporting their understanding of the world and helping them develop key skills such as observing, predicting, and asking meaningful questions.



Classes explored ideas such as "Can we grow food on the moon?", "What happens when we mix colours?", and "How are animals similar or different?" These investigations linked directly to science objectives, encouraging pupils to look closely at familiar concepts, compare features, and build their scientific thinking through hands-on exploration and discussion.



Save the Date! - Summer 2026

13/04 - Summer Term Opens

21/04 - Parents/Carers SALT Workshop (non-verbal pupils)

29/04 - Parents/Carers SALT Workshop (verbal pupils)

04/05 - May Bank Holiday – No Pupils in School

08/05 - Parents/Carers Charity Coffee Morning

21/05 - National Numeracy Day

22/05 - Sports Day – Parents/Carers Invite in Afternoon



Half Term - 25th May to 29th May



03/06 - World Bicycle Day

11/06 - KS3 Outdoor Athletics Event

12/06 - Online Safety Workshop for Parents/Carers 2pm-3pm

12/06 - 3rd Hep B Vaccinations

30/06 - Parents Evening

03/07- Inset Day – No Pupils in School

09/07 - Year 10 DofE Expedition

10/07 - Year 10 DofE Expedition

17/07 - Lunar Learning Day – Parents/Carers Invite in Afternoon

20/07 - Last Day of Term

