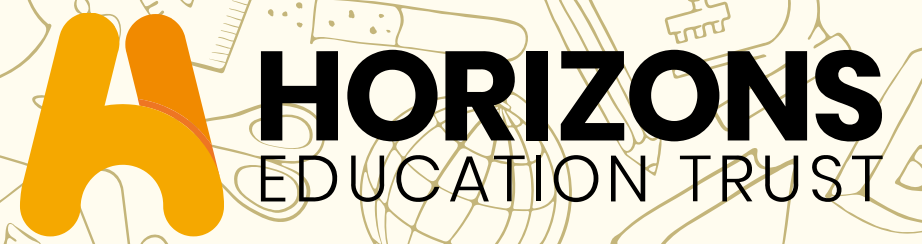


PRESTLEY POST

Summer Term 1 - 22.05.2026



Prestley Wood Academy



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

A message from Caroline

PWA School Councilors

Welcome to our Newsletter for the Summer 1 Term

The penultimate half term of the year in a school's calendar is often dedicated to reflecting on where a pupil is on their journey towards their learning targets. Summing up a year's development isn't just an administrative task for us; it's a reminder of the purpose behind our work. These reflections help us shape a final half term that is meaningful, stretching and carefully planned, so every pupil continues to move towards their goals.

Across our six learning areas, we've gathered so many success stories that it's hard not to feel inspired. Sharing these positive steps forward reminds us how hard our pupils work and how important it is to celebrate their progress.

One of the greatest privileges of being in a special school is the time we spend with our young people and the bonds they form with their peers over the years. Some pupils join us at four years old and remain until they are nineteen. Watching them grow from children into remarkable young adults, seeing their personalities unfold, their confidence build and their independence strengthen, is something very special.

As you read through this half term's newsletter, we hope you enjoy celebrating the achievements, experiences and moments that have already made this year so rich. Huge thanks, as always, to all our families for their participation this half term, whether joining on-site workshops, attending celebration events or sending in donations for the causes our learners support through Enterprise, Eco-School and fundraising initiatives. We are so grateful for your support.

It's hard to believe there is only one half term left, the year has truly flown. Wishing you a wonderful, sunny break.

Caroline

This half term, School Council have been focusing on two key priorities: building positive relationships with other schools and improving our school environment and local area.

Pupils took an active role in choosing the photographs now displayed on the large dining room wall. This has helped to create a welcoming space that celebrates our school community.

In addition, School Council members worked creatively to design and produce a mosaic PWA sign, which will be placed in the community garden. This project strengthens links with the local community and reflects the pride pupils have in their school.



PWA

<https://www.prestleywood.org.uk/>

Forest School

During Forest School this term, pupils have enjoyed a wide range of outdoor learning experiences, including nature walks, scavenger hunts and creative activities using natural materials found in the environment.

Pupils explored leaves, sticks, stones, flowers and bark to create nature portraits and forest fairy wands, encouraging imagination, creativity and self-expression.

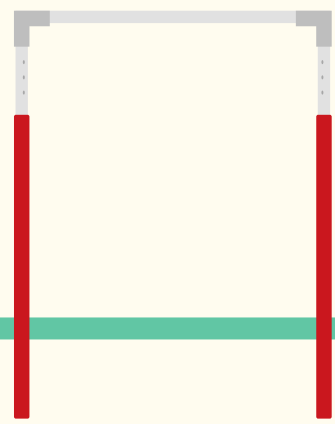
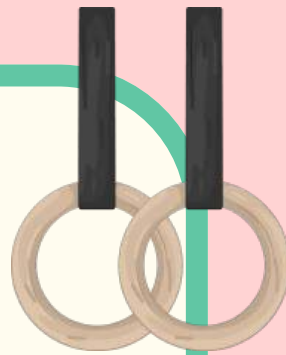
These activities support the development of observational skills, confidence and creativity, while also helping pupils learn more about the natural world. By exploring and creating with natural materials, pupils are learning to value and respect nature and to use resources thoughtfully and responsibly.



Olympic Gym



Juniper have completed three sessions at Huntingdon Olympic Gymnastics Club, where they worked hard to develop their balance, jumping, and rolling skills. They thoroughly enjoyed working with specialist coaches and embraced the opportunity to explore a fully equipped gymnastics arena.



Sports Hall Athletics



In Key Stage 3 and 4, students have been actively participating in the Sports Hall Athletics programme, where they have been developing their agility, coordination, and balance across ten different events. Through dedication and perseverance, they have worked their way along the “ladder of success”, earning points for each activity they complete. Their enthusiasm and commitment have been fantastic to see, with many students showing real progress and determination throughout the programme.

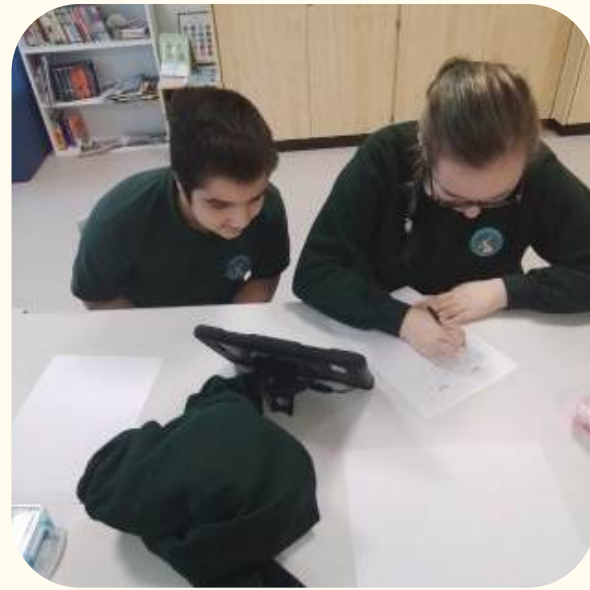
Wimpole Farm



Our visit to Wimpole Farm as part of our forest school curriculum gave children a valuable hands-on learning experience. They learned how animals are cared for, what they need to stay healthy and happy, and why it is important for humans to look after them responsibly. The trip helped to build respect, empathy, and understanding for animals while encouraging children to care for the natural world around them.



Dogs Trust Fundraiser



Sycamore Class recently led their own social action project, working collaboratively to research and select a charity close to their hearts. Inspired by their love of animals, they chose to support Dogs Trust and organised a wonderful coffee morning to raise funds.

The children demonstrated an impressive range of skills throughout their preparation, including budgeting, advertising, considering health and safety, decorating, and developing their customer service skills. Their teamwork and dedication truly shone.

The coffee morning was a fantastic success, raising an amazing £212 for their chosen charity. We are incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm, and community spirit.



Magnolia Highlights

Cherries in the Garden



This half term, Magnolia Class have been developing key skills through practical, hands-on learning experiences. In My



Reasoning, the children have been working on recognising coins, making amounts and adding values, using clear steps and visual supports to aid understanding.

These skills were further developed during a visit to the local café, where pupils applied their learning in a real-life situation, supporting



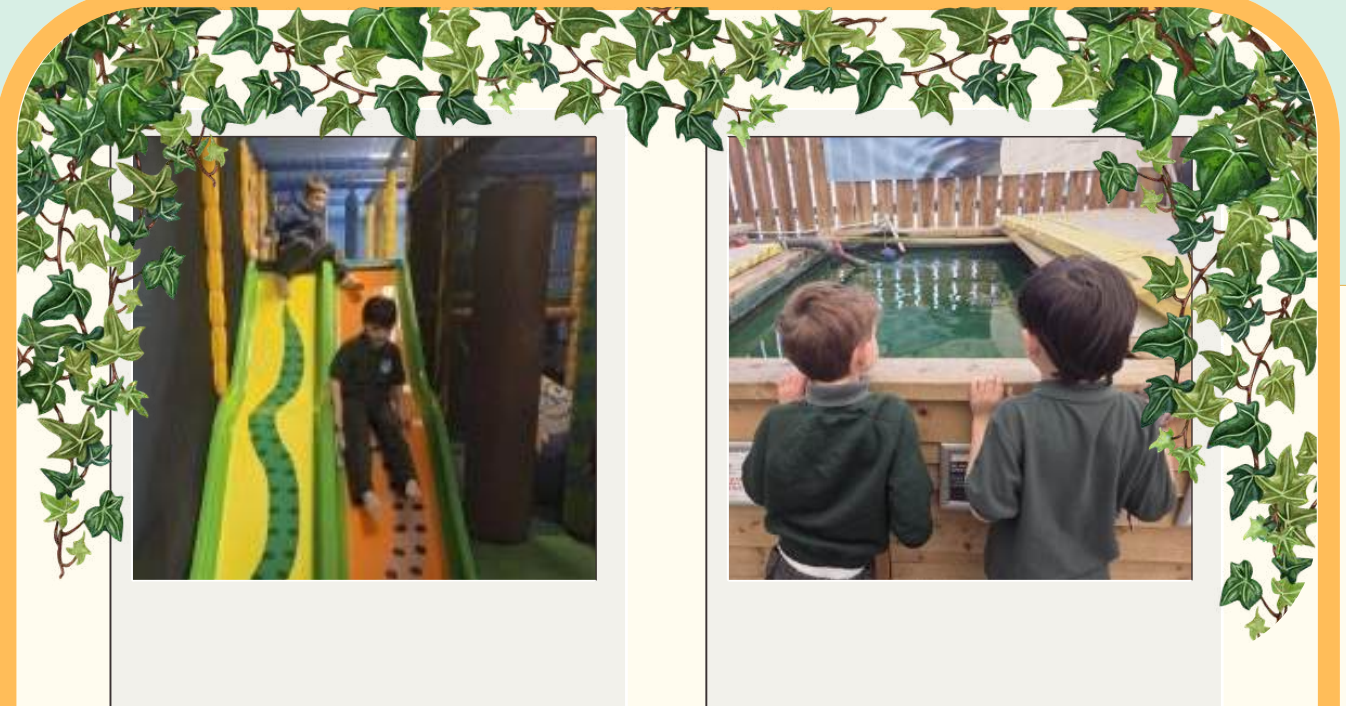
independence and confidence. The class have also been learning about their role in the community and how to care for the environment. Through structured activities, the children



explored what items can be recycled and why this is important. They then took part in a supported clean-up activity, removing rubbish from the “ocean,” helping them understand cause and



effect and the importance of caring for the world around them.



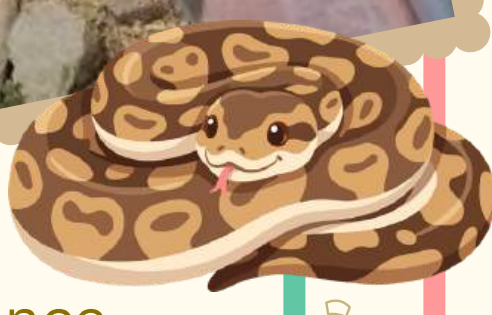
We are incredibly proud of how well Cherry Class did during our trip to the garden centre! The children transitioned smoothly, explored safely with their peers, used the soft play area safely, chose plants and herbs for our school garden, and enjoyed watching the fish swim. The visit supported communication development through responding to instructions, while also encouraging sensory exploration, safe social interaction, and a greater awareness of the world around them through new experiences, sights, sounds, and movement. A wonderful learning experience for all!



Johnson's Zoological Gardens



Chestnut Class took part in a valuable visit to Johnson's Zoological Gardens, where classroom learning was applied in a real-life context. Pupils used their phonics skills to sound out animal names such as mara, lemur, goat, and owl, showing growing confidence and independence.



They also developed their science knowledge by identifying animal features and grouping animals into categories such as mammals and reptiles, while discussing similarities and differences.



A highlight of the visit was the goat walk, where pupils demonstrated determination and resilience as they challenged themselves to take part. The experience also supported the development of social skills, with pupils working and playing together, strengthening teamwork and positive relationships.



<https://www.prestleywood.org.uk/>

National Numeracy Day



This year's National Numeracy Day theme was "Count on your Community".

We used our maths skills to plan and host a tea party, inviting members of the local community to thank them for their commitment to making our school a joyful place to be. We explored shape and pattern while creating decorations for our classrooms and the Post-16 area.

Using early multiplication and division, we worked out how many cups, plates, snacks and drinks were needed to accommodate our guests. Some of us then applied our money skills by visiting the shop to buy the ingredients. We followed recipes carefully, using a range of units of measurement to ensure everything tasted just right.

During the celebration, we counted how many people attended and developed our sequencing skills through musical party games. We thoroughly enjoyed applying our functional maths skills as we celebrated the people who help our Prestley Wood community thrive.



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 - Colour Run

20/07 - Last Day of Term

