



PROSPECT VALE GAZETTE

We care, we strive, together we thrive

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Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to this week's newsletter! We are doing things a little differently today by putting our youngest learners in the spotlight. There is something truly magical about the start of the school journey, and we are dedicated to ensuring our littlest students get the strongest possible start to their year.

Strong Foundations (For Everyone!)

While we are celebrating our early years pupils, the lessons apply to everyone. Regardless of your child's age, I encourage you to head straight to our "Strong Foundations" section.

It outlines the practical steps you can take right now to ensure your child is getting the absolute most out of their time with us. From morning routines to mindset, these are the building blocks that turn a "good" school year into a "great" one.

Attendance Update: Every Day Counts

Our attendance this week stands at 93%. At first glance, 93% might look like a solid score, but in the world of education, it's a little lower than we need.

The government's target is 96%, and there's a good reason for that: even a small gap adds up to a lot of missed precious learning moments in the classroom.



A Quick Tip: We know mornings can be tough, and sometimes children just don't feel 100%. However, if your child starts to feel better as the day goes on, please do bring them in for the afternoon session. A half-day is always better than a missed day, and it ensures they don't fall behind on essential learning.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students show up and shine!

Mr Redfearn
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Monday 26th January

★ ★ 3.30-4.30 Year 2 and 3 Cheer

Tuesday 27th January

★ ★ Stockport Songbook Practice

Wednesday 28th January

★ ★ Forest School Year 5

★ ★ Forest School Year 4

★ ★ KS1 Choir

★ ★ Nasheed Choir

Thursday 29th January

★ ★ 3.30pm-4.30pm Cheerleading Year 4, 5 and 6

Friday 30th January

★ ★ Year 5 Swimming

★ ★ Year 4 Recorder

★ ★ Year 5 Brass



Strong Foundations – Building Blocks of Learning!

In school, we have been looking closely at the government's "Strong Foundations" guidance. This framework emphasises that a child's success in the classroom is built upon a set of essential "building blocks"—not just academic skills, but the physical and emotional habits that make learning possible.



At Prospect Vale, we see every day how these foundations help children stay focused, curious, and ready to tackle new challenges. Here are three simple ways you can support these "Strong Foundations" at home:



- ✧✧ The Power of Routine: Consistent bedtimes and a predictable morning routine are the cornerstones of a good school day. When a child knows what to expect, their brain can move out of "survival mode" and into "learning mode." A well-rested brain is a curious brain!
- ✧✧ The "Ready to Learn" Breakfast: Just like a car needs fuel, the brain needs steady energy. A slow-release breakfast (like porridge, eggs, or whole-grain toast) along with plenty of water helps children maintain their concentration levels all the way through to lunchtime.
- ✧✧ Conversational Literacy: You don't always need a book in your hand to build literacy skills. Simply talking with your child—asking open-ended questions like "What was the most surprising thing you saw today?"—helps them build the vocabulary and narrative skills that are the literal foundations for reading and writing.

By working together on these basics, we ensure that every child has the best possible start to their learning journey each day.

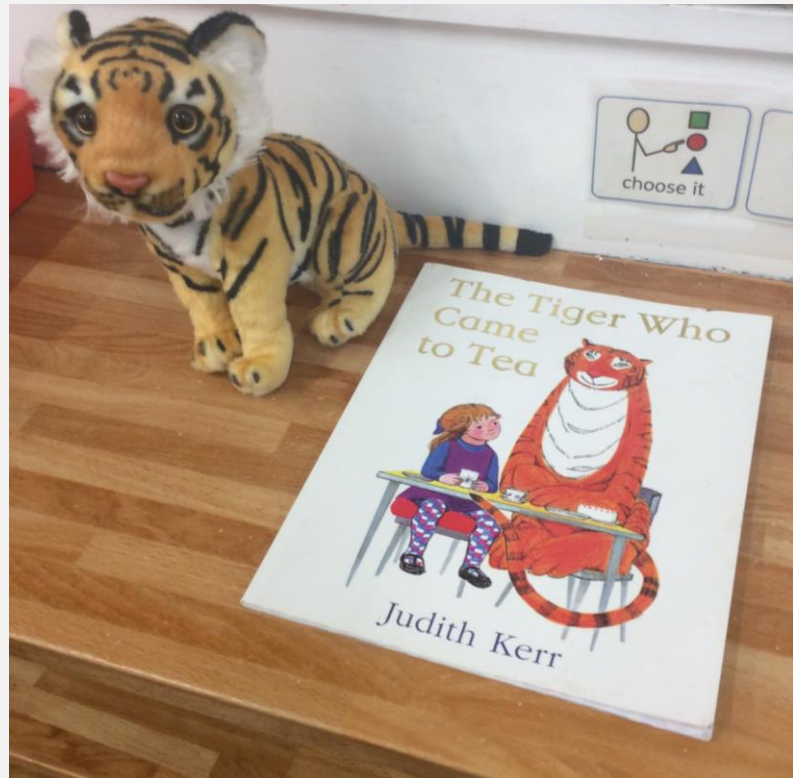


A Surprise Visitor: The Tiger Who Came to School!

We had a very messy surprise in our classroom this week! The children arrived to find food everywhere and mysterious, giant footprints trailing across the floor. We spent the morning acting as detectives, discussing the evidence and trying to guess who—or what—could have left such a trail behind.

Our mystery was solved when we finally met the Tiger himself! We learned that his absolute favorite food is jam sandwiches, so we got busy in the kitchen. The children did a fantastic job of spreading and cutting their sandwiches, and the highlight of the week was definitely getting to sit down and share our feast with the Tiger.

It has been a wonderful way to bring this classic story to life, and the children have had so much fun using their imaginations (and their sandwich-making skills!).







Exploring the World of Music Making!

We were delighted to welcome a specialist music leader into Reception this week for a fantastic day of exploration and sound. It wasn't just the children getting involved—the whole Reception team joined in to discover new and exciting ways to bring music into our daily learning.

The children had a wonderful time exploring different instruments, experimenting with rhythm, and learning how we can use our voices and bodies to make music together. It was a joy to see their confidence grow as they found their beat and collaborated as a group.

Music is such a vital part of early development, helping to build listening skills, coordination, and creative expression. We are looking forward to keeping the rhythm going in class using all the brilliant new ideas we explored!





PE Kit Final Reminder

We were so much better this week with PE so thank you to parents for taking on board our messages from last week. I'm just going to put one final reminder about PE kit below just in case you missed it last week. Thank you once again for all your support on this.

Staying Safe: Earring and Jewellery Guidance

We strongly recommend that earrings are not worn on scheduled PE days. If your child does wear them, please adhere to the following safety protocols:

Remove Before School To ensure your child doesn't miss out on valuable lesson time, please remove all jewellery at home on PE days. Children who are unable to remove their own earrings will unfortunately be unable to participate in certain physical activities for safety reasons.

Parental Support School staff should not be permitted to remove, replace, or tape over earrings for pupils. We ask that parents handle this responsibility before the school day begins.

Taping and Healing Times While taping is a temporary solution during the initial 6-week healing period following a new piercing, earrings must be fully removed for PE once that period has passed. This ensures maximum safety during high-energy movement and contact sports.

Style Restrictions For the general safety of all children during play and sport, **large or hooped earrings must not be worn** in school at any time. Only small, plain studs are permitted for those with pierced ears.

The Correct PE Kit

Having the appropriate kit is essential for movement, support, and hygiene. Please ensure your child has their full kit in school every day of the week to account for any timetable changes:

Indoor PE Kit The required indoor kit consists of a plain white T-shirt, black shorts or leggings, and black pumps. In some sessions, children may be asked to participate in bare feet for better grip on mats.

Outdoor PE Kit For outdoor sessions, children should wear a white T-shirt, black tracksuit or jogging bottoms, and a plain black jumper or zip-up top.

Footwear Requirements Standard school shoes often lack the necessary grip and ankle support needed for outdoor sports. Suitable trainers are essential for safe movement on the playground and field.



Essential Labelling

Please ensure that every item of clothing—especially jumpers, trainers, and coats—is clearly labelled with your child's name. This allows us to return any lost items to their rightful owners quickly and prevents unnecessary costs for families.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping our PE lessons safe, inclusive, and enjoyable for every child.



Certificate Winners

Well done to our certificate winners this week. You went above and beyond in exemplifying our school ethos!

Reception	Hiba
Year 1	Shantul
Year 2	Eliana
Year 3	Jad
Year 4	Jonah
Year 5	Arham
Year 6	Rio

Well done everyone!

Dojo Certificates

Every day, children are awarded with dojo points that count towards a weekly total and an ongoing total. The weekly total winners for each class are displayed here. There are also opportunities to receive badges for children collecting dojos over time. This allows us to celebrate our school ethos at every opportunity.

Reception	Zayaan
Year 1	Ollie
Year 2	Eliana
Year 3	Noah
Year 4	Eshaal
Year 5	Azaan
Year 6	Zain

Attendance

Well done to for achieving the highest attendance this week! Keep up the great work! Our weekly attendance was 95.2%

This is below our **96%** target. We need to make an improvement next week. Let's try our hardest next week everyone!

Reception	90
Year 1	94.3
Year 2	93.7
Year 3	95.2
Year 4	93.2
Year 5	95
Year 6	92.3
TOTAL	93.3%



