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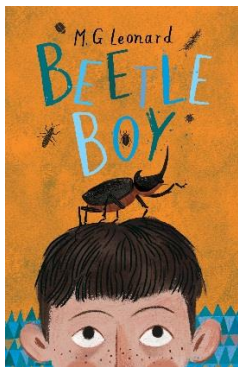
## Robins Year 4 and Year 5 Class Newsletter Spring Term 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you all have had a lovely, relaxing Christmas holiday and are feeling refreshed and ready for the busy spring term ahead.

### English

Our main text focus this term is Beetle Boy by M. G. Leonard.



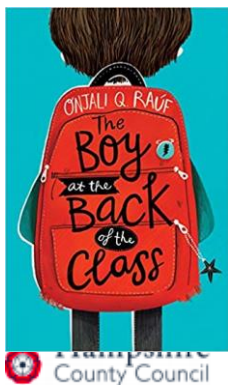
Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize  
Nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2017  
Longlisted for the UKLA award 2017.

Dr Bartholomew Cuttle wasn't the kind of man who mysteriously disappeared. He was the kind of man who read enormous old books at the dinner table and got fried egg stuck in his beard. Darkus Cuttle's dad is missing, vanished from a locked room and now everything for Darkus is about to change.

The children will explore this text through letters, character descriptions and non-chronological reports. We will be studying both fiction and non-fiction texts to deepen our knowledge and understanding of comprehension and grammar, including different sentence types, distinguishing between fact and opinion and analyzing themes and conventions. The children will get the opportunity to discuss what they have read through debate and presentations, examining how the author has used language to enhance meaning, using evidence to justify their answers.

### Story Wings and Reading

Our Story Wings scheme aims to encourage children to read a variety of genres and discover authors they are not yet familiar with. Your child has a chart in the front of their reading records to record the books they have read and reviewed for 'Story Wings'. Please do encourage your children to continue working towards their Story Wings, as it would be great to award some more badges this term! Please also continue to hear your child read at home; it is an opportunity to enjoy stories together, discuss new words and ask questions about character and plot. Children have plenty of opportunities to change their library books at school. Please make sure your child's book and reading record are in school every day. Our class reading book this term is 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Rauf.



'When a new boy joins their class, a group of children try to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family. None of the grown-ups seem to be able to help him, so the friends come up with a daring plan, embarking on an extraordinary adventure. Based in part on the stories she encountered when working in refugee camps, Onjali Q. Rauf's remarkable debut deserves to be

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ranked as a modern classic. Told with humour and tenderness, it is an unforgettable story of hope, curiosity and the importance of kindness.'

## Maths

In Maths this term we will look at building upon our mental strategies for calculation as well as developing our fluency in counting in different multiples. We will then develop our skills using formal written methods and explore effective strategies for all four operations. The children will then have the opportunity to apply all of this learning to solve mathematical problems involving money and time. We will then move on to looking at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. In Geometry we will use our knowledge of shape to help us visualize fraction, decimal and percentage equivalents.

## Science

In science this term the children will continue to take on the role of natural scientists. However, this term we are looking at plants. We will be exploring Preston Candover CE Primary School's own habitat and investigating the different plants that we find. The children will have a chance to examine these plants before learning all about the different parts and conditions that they need to survive. We will be using our art skills to capture these plants in sketches and painting. We will also learn how and why plants make their own food.

Our longitudinal study this term will involve examining how the habitat and types of plants and animals living around a tree varies throughout the seasons.

## Geography

We will be learning all about climates and biomes this term and deciding for ourselves which biome is the easiest to live in. Our big enquiry question '**have humans destroyed the Earth beyond repair?**' will help us to think about the different environments and biomes and how as human beings we have an impact on these places.

## Art

Our artist this term is Georgia O'Keefe. We will be looking at her flower painting and linking this to our Science learning on plants. We will have the opportunity to sketch and paint our own flowers using pictures from our trip to Wisley Garden's as inspiration. We will then turn these paintings in 3D fabric flowers.

## Design and Technology

In Design and Technology this term we will be conducting some research on healthy snack foods, exploring different recipes, ingredients and packaging used. We will learn how to evaluate a healthy snack and to design and market packaging before creating our own healthy snack food. We will then taste our creations to see if they are 'fit for purpose' before evaluating our own work and giving feedback to our peers.

## Computing

Our ICT this term will involve learning about being safe online, knowing when things don't feel right and when to tell an adult. We will also begin to learn about how to communicate for different audiences, using Purple Mash to explore 2Email, 2Connect and 2DIY. The children will get to develop their skills in typing and formatting text to suit a particular purpose and audience.

## Religious Education (RE)

In RE this term we will be learning about the Hindu festival of Holi and the religious importance of this festival. We will then be studying the Understanding Christianity question 'what did Jesus do to save human beings?' and researching our own answers to evaluate it.

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## **Physical Education (PE)**

In PE this term we will continue to benefit from the excellent teaching by our PE specialist Mrs Clayton-Shepherd on a Thursday. We will also have swimming on a Wednesday. Please can you therefore ensure your child has a named PE kit (including trainers or plimsolls) in school all week. Children will also need to bring in a swimming costume on a Wednesday, including a swimming hat.

## **Music**

Our music lessons will continue to be provided by our music specialist, Mr Jones, from the Hampshire Music Service. Pupils will learn to play a musical instrument. This term it will be string instruments. The children will have the opportunity to develop their skills on ukuleles.

## **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

We will be starting this term looking at diversity and difference in the UK and around the world. We will be exploring different cultures and learning about different values and rights. We will then move on to researching sustainability and the role of money across the world. This will involve learning how to budget and how to save.

## **Homework**

### **Maths**

A 'Mymaths' and 'Timestable Rockstars', or written task will be set each week which will need to be completed by the following Thursday.

If your child has misplaced their log ins, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will be more than happy to print off a new one for them.

Children will also be tested on their times tables every Friday, so please help your child practise them at home to help build their fluency and recall.

### **Reading Comprehension/Grammar**

This will be set on alternate Thursdays, to be handed in the following Thursday.

### **Spellings**

These will be set on Thursday to be tested on the following Thursday.

### **Reading Records**

These will be checked during guided reading sessions, so please can you ensure that your child has their reading record with them each day at school.

If you have any queries or concerns at any point during your child's time in Robin class, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Before Christmas, we asked for parents to provide three 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps for each child so that the children can write for a real purpose and audience. Please may we remind parents to kindly send three 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps in with your child by the beginning of next week.

Many thanks,

Miss Lock and Miss Byrne

(Robin Class Teacher and Learning Support Assistant)

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