



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents

Robins Year 4 and Year 5 Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2019

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

English

The children will first explore a variety of poetry this term and enjoy the vivid imagery introduced in 'A Matter of Great Holes', 'Sir Autumn' and 'Sky Artist'. These poems will provide a fantastic stimulus for the children to create their own exciting poetry to perform and give them a bank of rich language to draw upon to help develop their descriptive writing further. We will then move on to studying Rudyard Kipling's collection of short stories: 'Just So Stories'. During this learning journey we will continue to develop our knowledge of descriptive writing, specifically looking at how to create effective descriptions of characters and settings using fronted adverbials. The children will then have the opportunity to write their own 'Just So' story and these will be collated into a class book for the children to enjoy. The children will finish off the first half term by looking at travel writing. Using 'Lonely Planet's Ultimate Travel Guide' as an excellent example, we will explore the features of travel writing and examine how to correctly use semi-colons and colons to separate clauses. Each child will then have the opportunity to research a country of their choice to create their own piece of travel writing.

After half term the children will be introduced to Michael Morpurgo's adaptation of the classic text 'Beowulf'. We will be continuing to develop our knowledge of how to construct effective sentences by learning about relative clauses and parenthesis. The children will then look at the features of newspaper reports before using 'Beowulf' as a stimulus to write their own class newspaper. The autumn term will be concluded with an exploration of a graphic novel adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' through which we will explore different tenses and voices. The children will then have the opportunity to use everything they have learnt during the term to create their own graphic novel.

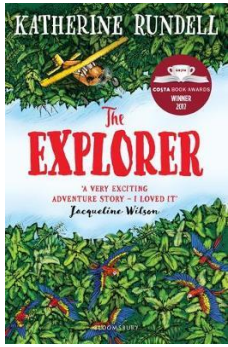
Story Wings and Reading

The 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 start working towards their Story Wings, as it would be great to award some 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

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make sure your child's book and reading record are in school every day. Our class reading book this term is 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell.



'Like a man-made magic wish the airplane began to rise. The boy sitting in the cockpit gripped his seat and held his breath as the plane roared and climbed into the arms of the sky. From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him. As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small. Except, it seems, someone has been there before them...'

Maths

In Maths this term we will be developing our knowledge of number and place value using increasingly large numbers. 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 introduce some 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 measure.

In Geometry we will be looking at the properties of shape, including both 2D and 3D shapes, where we will learn how to classify different shapes using their different properties. We will also be looking at lines of symmetry in 2D shapes.

Science

In science this term the children will take on the role of natural scientists who need to classify a variety of different minibeasts. We will be exploring Preston Candover CE Primary School's own habitat and investigating the different creatures that we find. The children will have a chance to examine both animals and plants from this habitat before learning how to classify them using dichotomous keys/branching databases. We will be using our art skills to create small-scale scientific sketches of our minibeasts (using Levon Biss' work as inspiration) before scaling them up into a whole class large-scale drawing which will be accompanied by dichotomous keys identifying our creature or plant.

After half-term we will continue looking at habitats and how environmental change can significantly affect different habitats. We will be looking at three specific habitats in depth; the rainforest, the oceans and the polar regions. The children will have the chance to undertake experiments to show the impact of human activity on the environment and how different organisms are affected by this. We will also be looking at the different food chains that occur in various habitats.

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.

History

We will be learning all about Alfred the Great this term and deciding for ourselves whether he really was 'great'. Our big enquiry question '**what makes someone great?**' will help us to think about the different qualities and strands of 'greatness' and how people can be considered great for different reasons.

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Art

Alongside the scientific sketches, in Art this term we will also be learning about the artist Alberto Giacometti. The children will have the opportunity to learn about the different medias that Giacometti used to create his artwork. We will then use his work as inspiration to create our own 3D wire and papier mache sculptures.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology this term we will be conducting some research on storage containers, exploring different designs, features and materials/fabrics used. We will learn how to sew a variety of different stitches and to measure accurately before creating our own storage container for an item of our choice. We will then test our designs to see if they are 'fit for purpose' before evaluating our own work and giving feedback to our peers.

ICT

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 how to code information to create a simple game and how to use spreadsheets to perform simple calculations.

Religious Education (RE)

In RE this term we will be learning about the Hindu Story of Dussehra and the religious concepts of good and evil. As we draw closer to Christmas, we will be learning about the festival's Christian symbolism through the Christmas story which will include a visit to St Mary's church.

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 a professional sports coach come in to teach us badminton on a Wednesday. Please can you therefore ensure your child has a named PE kit (including trainers or plimsolls) in school all week.

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 the genre of music will be Samba.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

We will be starting this term looking at how we can keep ourselves safe in both the local environment and online. We will work together to develop strategies for keeping physically and emotionally safe and learn about how to lead a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

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.

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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 us. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Many thanks

Miss Lock and Miss Byrne

(Robin Class Teacher and Learning Support Assistant)

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