



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents

Owl Class

Owls Class Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome to a new school year!

We hope you have had a lovely summer break and the children have returned to us refreshed and ready to enjoy learning.

Our big question this term is 'Why should we be more resourceful?' and below is an outline of what we hope to cover in Owl Class this term.

English:

Following on from our trip to Butser Ancient Farm we will be reading and writing recounts. We will study the story Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura looking at how the author uses language such as adverbials, noun phrases, connectives, compound and complex sentences, and use these in writing our own stories. We will then be reading and performing poetry and writing our own poems as well as looking at non-fiction texts. We will be using the 'No Nonsense' spelling programme and Song of Sounds phonics programme. Group reading sessions will take place throughout the term. A spelling test will be given on Fridays and the children bring their new weekly spelling word lists home on the same day. Please encourage your children to practise their spellings and to learn the meanings of unfamiliar words and look at the words in context.

Maths:

During our maths lessons this term, we will be covering number and place value, aspects of mental addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also look at Geometry, 3D shape and measuring. To apply and embed our learning across all of these areas of maths, we will also be using a variety of number problems.

By the end of Year 2, children should know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and by the end of year 3, children should also know their 3, 4 and 8 times tables. Please can you help your child practice these regularly at home and encourage them to use Times Tables Rock Stars.

Science:

This term we will be investigating rocks and fossils. Studying rocks with different appearances and physical properties we will learn their names and uses. We will learn what fossils are and how they are formed and understand what soil is made from. We will move on to look at solutions and mixing and separating.

History:

Our big enquiry question "Why should we be resourceful?" links closely with our history topic - 'Stone Age through to Iron Age'. To give the children an exciting introduction to this topic, we will be taking the class to Butser Ancient Farm where they will take part in a range of practical activities to help bring their learning to life. Back in the classroom, we will be focusing on the concept of change and continuity and exploring how life changed when man learned to farm. Using a range of archaeological finds, we will be using our detective skills to infer what life was like in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age and will decide for ourselves when we think was a better time to be alive.

Geography:

After half term we will continue to refer to our big enquiry question as we will be looking at the distribution of natural resources and how we can be more sustainable. We will be exploring what we need to survive in our world and learn about renewable and non-renewable energy and the pros and cons of each. We will also consider how the world would be different if we did not have any electricity and will explore ways that our school can become more self-sufficient.

Religious Education:

We have two topics this half term. The first has a seasonal flavour around Harvest. We will look at 'Bread' through the concept of symbol: making our own bread symbols reflecting on what we have achieved and then eating them together. Then we will look at 'Light': its importance, especially to Christians and Hindus, through the concept of light as a symbol. There are links which we will make with other areas of the curriculum here.

Computing:

We will start this term by learning about key artists and exploring their different styles of art. Using the programme 2Paint a picture, we will create our own computerised pictures where we will apply these different styles of art form. To build on children's understanding of staying safe online, we will be learning about the importance of passwords and creating our own 'spoof' web pages to show that information found on websites may not always be correct. Our final topic for the term is 'effective searching' which will build on what we have learnt in our e safety unit by helping the children to read and understand search results and recognise which sites are the most reliable and trustworthy. We will then create our own leaflets to help others search for information on the internet.

Physical Education:

In Dance we will build upon forms of travel and movement and create sequenced dances based on our topic learning about the Stone Age. We will concentrate on being aware of ourselves as we travel and move different body parts and how to contrast our actions and body shapes in order to convey feeling and respond to the music. In Gym we will master point balances and join these in sequences using a range of travel, spins and turns. We will focus on games with our PE expert Mrs Clayton-Shepherd. PE is timetabled for Thursday and Friday this year, but please ensure that your child has their named PE kit in school all week, as there may occasionally be changes to the timetable.

Art and Design:

Exploring cave art from the Stone Age we understand how art has changed over time and the possible purpose of cave art. Using a range of media and tools such as paint, charcoal, sticks, feathers, rocks, children experiment with creating effects then move on to designing and painting their own piece of 'cave art'.

DT:

Linking with our big question and geography topic we will be looking at how we can make sustainable food choices. Children will learn about the food groups and where food comes from and where it is



farmed or caught in Europe and the wider world. Children will design and prepare a meal using seasonal foods.

PSHE:

Focusing on our PSHE theme of 'Living in the Wider World' we will begin by writing our own class charter based on our values, rights and responsibilities. We will learn about the ways rules and laws keep people safe and that it is important to take part in making and changing rules, how this links to our rights and that children have their own set of human rights.

French:

We will begin this term learning how to greet people. We will be learning some core language to help us provide more information about ourselves and will use songs and poems to help us to remember key phrases. We will also be learning our numbers from 0-20 and begin to respond to simple questions posed.

Music:

Our music learning for this term - 'Hands, Feet, Heart' focuses on music from South Africa. We will be listening to a range of different music and songs from this country and comparing them. We will also be listening to the different rhythms in the music we hear and will be using a range of different percussion instruments to play alongside to the beat. This unit will culminate in Owls class singing and playing Hands, Feet, Heart to another class within the school. Leading up to Christmas, we be listening to range of Christmas carols and songs and identifying the different instruments being played. We will also listen to a popular Rock n Roll version of the popular Christmas song about Santa's Red Nosed Reindeer and compare it to Bing Crosby's version. We will end the term by performing the Hosanna Rock Song to the school.

Homework is as follows:

Y2: Daily reading, weekly spellings, Timetable Rockstars, a fortnightly My Maths activity on the computer alternating with a fortnightly English task.

Y3: Frequent reading, weekly spellings, Timetable Rockstars, a weekly My Maths activity and weekly English homework.

Homework will be set on Friday and needs to be handed in the following Thursday.

All of the children will be given homework books.

Please try to hear your child read regularly. You can encourage your child by reading with them: poetry, fiction, non-fiction, comics, newspapers – reading for pleasure and enjoyment!

Equipment:

Your child will need a named PE kit in school from Monday to Friday, please ensure if it gets taken home to be washed over the weekend that it is back in school on Monday. They also need an Art shirt: (an old adult's shirt with the sleeves cut shorter is absolutely fine. Your child will not need a pencil case, as all stationary will be provided.



We look forward to welcoming you on the 'Meet the Teachers' afternoon.

Yours sincerely

Fran Johnson and Katie East
Class Teachers

Sara-Jayne Eustace
LSA

