



# Preston Candover CE Primary

**Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE**

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*Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway*

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back to the spring term, I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for my extremely thoughtful gifts and cards; I was overwhelmed with your kindness. Kingfisher class had an absolutely amazing 2019 and I am really looking forward to 2020, as we embrace another exciting term, that will allow all children to show how hard-working they are but most importantly how much fun we have as a class, learning something new.

Topic- This term the children will be faced with another big question: **'How can we be sure of what really happened in our past?'** This question will be unpicked within our Ancient Egyptians and Overview of Early Civilizations topic. This topic, will allow the children to explore four different civilizations: Ancient Egypt, Shang Dynasty of China, Indus Valley and Ancient Sumer. All children will have the opportunity to become historians and carry out their own research using the school laptops, Ipads, wide collection of texts and artefacts. Each child will present their information to an audience, at the end of the topic, in a creative way that engages a target audience. All children will learn how to dance, cook and create pieces of art to express what they have learnt about one or more civilizations. I am very excited by the new topic and I know the children will be too. If anyone has any information they would like to share with the children to make the topic even more interesting, I would love to hear from you.

English- I was so impressed with the quality of writing the children produced last term and they were really proving how they never give up! The children are now using all the tools to continue improving their writing and have really learnt how to engage their audience. This is something that we strive to continue, as the children will be working together to edit and improve their work to a really high standard. We will achieve this quality of writing through reading *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell. This book was recommended to me by a few avid readers in Kingfisher class, who love the author. They have been incredibly patient and I now understand why they said it was a 'must read!', as I could not put the book down. I know they are very excited to share it with the rest of the class. This exceptional text will allow all children to develop their love of reading and strengthen their comprehension skills in preparation for their reading tests. This book will inspire the children to write creatively yet, support them in using the correct spelling, grammar and punctuation that is needed to create an outstanding Year 5/6 piece of writing.

Maths - Children in Kingfisher class, will continue to consolidate their learning in many areas of the maths curriculum and apply what they have already learnt through problem solving and reasoning. All children will be revisiting previous areas involving: place value and formal written methods for multiplication, division, subtraction and addition. Problem solving will be at the heart of this learning, with the opportunities to use the mathematics resources when needed. Year six children will now be working really hard in preparation for their SATs; they will be given test-style questions to ensure that they feel happy and confident with the tests ahead. We will ensure that all children in Kingfisher class are given the help and support they need, both, in school and at home with home-learning. Please don't hesitate to ask Miss Brown any questions, as I am more than happy to help.

Science- In Science this term we will be looking at animals, with a focus on respiration. The children will be working scientifically and will be actively involved in numerous respiratory experiments, where they will be making predictions, leading a role in experiments and presenting their findings through using diagrams, pictures and succinct conclusions. All children will be given the opportunity to research the diets of famous athletes and compare it to their own. We will also be getting hands on when exploring the heart to help us in answering these key questions: Does everyone's heart beat at the same rate? And can you make someone's heart beat faster without them having to do any exercise?

Computing- Kingfisher class will be using computing in all areas of the curriculum this term. They will be using 'My Maths' and 'Timestables Rockstars' in maths to develop their mental recall and secure their understanding of mathematical concepts. They will be using the internet to research their topics and Google maps will be used to locate the Ancient civilizations. All children will be given the opportunity to present their findings through using Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Our e-safety focus this term will encourage the children to be aware of the different forms of technology that can be used to access the internet and ways to safely communicate with others.

Music- I was incredibly impressed with the musical talent in Kingfisher class from the Autumn term. They all sang beautifully in the carol service. This term, the children will develop their singing and performing further, through our Music topics 'Jazz' and 'Dancing in the Street'. Kingfisher class will be given the opportunity to play a range of instruments and will be introduced to new musical vocabulary such as: rhythm, pulse, pitch, improvise, ensemble, appraising, arrangement, composing, dynamics and melody. They will be able to demonstrate their understanding of this vocabulary through composing their own pieces of music. I'm sure that the Kingfisher class will continue to enjoy performing to an audience over this term.

P.S.H.E and Citizenship- In PSHE, Kingfisher Class will be learning the role money plays in their own and others' lives and how to manage money. We will also continue researching and discussing topical issues, problems and events, which the children in Kingfisher Class show a passion for in the classroom. The children will strengthen their understanding of their basic human rights and learn how rules and laws are made and reinforced. We end this topic by understanding, what positively and negatively affects our physical, mental and emotional health and how we have the opportunity to make our own choices of food to help gain a healthy and balanced diet.

R.E - This term in RE, we will look into the rules in religion, where all children will understand the different ideas and values people have and begin to understand why people have different views and how we should respect these. For the second half- term we will focus on Salvation through un-picking our enquiry question: 'What difference does the resurrection make for Christians?'

French- We will be continuing to revise times, days, months and hobbies. The children will learn associated language and use this to write, say simple sentences and conversations. Our main focus this term will be introducing new vocabulary surrounding food and ingredients.

P.E - Mrs Clayton-Shepherd will teach team games such as: basketball and rugby on a Thursday. The class will also be starting gymnastics and dance, based around our Ancient Civilizations topic, during Wednesday's session with Miss Brown. We are all extremely impressed with Kingfisher class in PE because of their fantastic team work. Please ensure your child is coming into school with a full PE kit, so they can fully enjoy their PE lessons in all weather conditions. Please ensure that all hair is tied back, earrings are taken out and jewellery is not worn during PE.

Homework- Spellings will be set on a Friday and will be tested the following Friday. All homework will be set on a Friday to be in the following Friday. Maths homework will continue to be set weekly on 'My Maths' and a paper copy will go into their homework books. English or topic work will also be set in their homework books. Please continue to support your children with reading at home; we believe reading with your child is essential. Please support your child with reading through learning the meanings of new vocabulary and questioning your child based on the text, so that they are developing their comprehension skills. Please record when you read with your child in their reading record books. If you wish to discuss anything else about this term, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for all of your support 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.

Yours sincerely,

Miss D. Brown (Class 5 teacher)      Mrs Vickers (Class 5 LSA)

