# Preston Candover CE Primary School

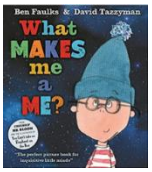
**Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE**
*Telephone:* **01256 389278**
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*Headteacher:* **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

Dear Parents and carers

I hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed making some lovely family memories. We are very pleased to welcome you to a new year in Sparrows class. As a team, our main priorities for Reception children over the next few weeks will be settling them into the school routine, getting to know them and providing a happy, smooth transition from home to school in order to create a positive attitude towards learning. Our Year 1 children will be following the Year 1 curriculum expectations as well as consolidating and building upon learning from their foundation year, which is a very important part of their transition into Key Stage 1.

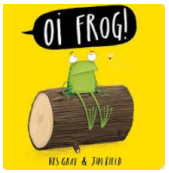
We hope this newsletter gives you an insight into what your children will be learning over the next term and we look forward to working with you to support your child as they settle into this new academic year.

Our Big Enquiry Question for the first half of the term is "How have things changed over time?" followed by "What makes a house a home?" after half term.



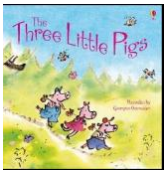

## Literacy

The key texts we will explore together in the first half of the term are "What makes me a me" by Ben Faulks and the rhyming "Oi Frog" series by Kes Gray.




Our Reception children will begin writing familiar words, such as their name and names of those people in their family as well as be introduced to letter formation through daily handwriting lessons.

Year 1 will be using these key texts to explore descriptions and will write their own descriptions of themselves and members of their family in more detail. Throughout this book, the children will be exploring how we are all different and what makes each of us unique. In their writing, Year 1 children will be moving on to writing with increased accuracy and independence- applying their phonic knowledge from their Reception year. Expectations in their writing will include leaving spaces between their words and using capital letters in the right places. They will also explore different types of punctuation - full stops, question marks and exclamation marks in their work.




After half term, we will be using the traditional tale of 'The three Little Pigs' and 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson as our text drivers.These stories will provide the children with lots of opportunities for acting out and retelling the stories and creating storymaps to support us with this.




Reception children will also take part in the annual "World Nursery Rhyme week" with their rhyme a day challenge during the second half term.

## Phonics, Spelling and Reading

For reception children - we use a phonic scheme called Little Wandle letter and sounds revised and I will be holding a brief presentation on Tuesday 22nd **September at 2.40pm** where I will explain how the scheme works. Please complete the Little Wandle: Introduction for Parents – form to let us know if you are able to attend this presentation. The children will start their phonics lessons straight away and begin to learn those all important sounds that will ensure future success in their literacy learning.

**Love Hope Justice**

*Encourage each other and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

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Year 1 children will start the term by revising the Phase 3 and 4 phonemes and graphemes learnt in their reception year before moving on to phase 5.

**Maths -Reception**
In maths, Reception children will learn how to sort using different objects- looking at matching the same and comparing what is different. They will explore repeating patterns and use different resources to copy, continue and create their own repeating patterns. They will also focus on numbers first to 5- to develop a deep understanding of how they can be made up, how we can represent them and how we can subitise - being able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting. Reception children will also explore 2D shapes and positional language over the term. Practical resources will be used continually throughout to ensure our reception children develop a strong understanding.

**Year 1**

Year 1 children will be consolidating number bonds to 10 and their understanding of place value. They will order and compare numbers to 10 and beyond using objects, order numbers using a number line, and make 'teen' numbers by adding some more to 10. They will also be using concrete and pictorial ways to represent numbers to 20 and order and compare numbers up to 20. Year 1 will explore money and how much each coin to 10p is worth. They will use coins to 10p to solve addition and subtraction problems. Using numbers to 20, Year 1 will look at subtraction as 'taking away'; begin to count back to subtract and see how subtraction 'undoes' addition. They will also solve problems by deciding whether they need to add or subtract in order to get to the right answer.

**Understanding the World - People, Culture and Communities (RE)**
For Religious Education, our focus will be Harvest during the first half of the term with the key concept of 'celebration'. The children will talk about what a celebration is and the features of celebrations. They will then focus on the Harvest celebration and ways in which Christians celebrate this festival as well as the importance of it in Christianity.

***To help with this topic, please can all children bring in a photograph, a drawing or an object about a time in their lives when they were celebrating. This can be any celebration ie, a birthday, a family occasion, a wedding etc. Could these please be brought in as soon as possible. We will collect them in and keep them safe in the classroom. Please also name them.***

After half term, our concept will be the candle as a symbol of light. Throughout this half term the children will be looking into Advent and Hannukah and finding out about how candle flames are used and what it means for people of different faiths.

**Understanding the World - Past and Present (EYFS) / History (Year 1)**

During the first half term, our history topic will be "How have things changed over time?"

Reception children will explore their own personal history and how they have changed since they were babies.

***For this, please could we also ask you to send in a photo of your child when they were a baby to support with our discussions.***

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Year 1 children will be looking into changes within living memory through the exploration of how technology has changed over time. We will be using pictures and artefacts to explore changes in domestic technology- such as how irons have changed from flat ones heated on an open fire to modern day electric and steam irons, how technology has changed the way we write and communicate, and how technology has changed the way we are entertained. We will compare old and new examples of phones, computers, CD players etc to discuss similarities and differences between them and suggest why things have changed over time. ***If you have any pictures or artefacts we could use for this or which you would be happy to come in and talk to us about then please let us know.***

**Understanding the World - The Natural World (EYFS) / Geography (Year 1)**
After half term, we move to our geography topic linked to our big enquiry question "where do we live?" Reception children will focus on their immediate environment around the school, exploring the human and physical features within Preston Candover.
Year 1 children will be exploring the UK and will use world maps, Google Earth and atlases to find out about and identify the United Kingdom and its countries. They will locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas as well as look at landmarks and basic human and physical features of the different countries. They will also explore simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map.

**Understanding the world - The Natural World (EYFS) / Science (Year 1)**
Our science focus for the first half of term will be around the body and senses. Throughout this topic the children will be identifying basic body parts and using their five senses to explore and describe the world around them as well as developing their understanding of how they can keep their bodies and minds healthy. After half term they will be exploring everyday materials and using scientific vocabulary to describe changes in states. They will also carry out scientific investigations and talk about what they observe and have found out.

**Expressive Arts and Design (EYFS) / Art/ DT (Year 1)**
For the first half term, art will be our focus with the topic self- portraits. The children will be looking at the works of Van Gogh and Frida Kahlo and exploring proportion when drawing and painting their own self-portraits. They will explore how texture can be added to features when drawing as well as mixing paints to create different shades and tones. The children will also be exploring printing in order to print a background for their own Frieda Kahlo inspired portraits.

After half term, our focus will be DT where the children will be exploring moving pictures and creating their own moving picture.

**Expressive arts and design (EYFS) / Music (Year 1)**
In music sessions, the children will be composing and creating high and low melodic responses as well as explore changes in tempo and dynamics.

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**Physical development (PE)**
We have 2 PE sessions a week for dance/ gym and games. This term we will be developing our awareness of space through games, exploring different balances in gym and creating our own seasons inspired dance.

**Understanding the World - people and communities (EYFS) / MFL -French (Year 1)**

Over the term, Reception children will focus on finding out more about France, how we get there and will learn some French nursery rhymes whilst Year 1 children will explore different greetings and practice using them in role play conversations. Children will also find out more about French Christmas traditions.

**Computing**

Throughout the first half term, Reception children will identify different sources of technology at home and at school. Year 1 children will be exploring computer systems and networks and begin to learn how to use a computer keyboard.

**PSED (EYFS) / PSHE (Year 1)**

Over the first half term, our PSHE focus will be making friends and learning together. As part of this we will explore that it is ok to like and dislike different things. After half term our PSHE sessions will focus on mental health and well -being - how to recognise and deal with different feelings.

**Baseline Assessment- Reception children only**

The Reception Baseline Assessment is a statutory national assessment that will be administered to all children in Reception classes in their first 6 weeks of starting school. The aim is to provide a snapshot of where children are in their learning on entry to reception and will establish a starting point to measure the progress they have made by the end of Year 6. The assessment itself is a short practical assessment which will focus on the children's early literacy, communication, language and maths skills and will be carried out with each child on a one to one basis as part of our usual in class provision. The tasks are similar to our usual on entry provision and will help us to get to know the children and understand what they can do so that we can get to know them and build upon their learning.

**Home Learning**

For reception children once the children are assigned their reading book- which links to our phonic scheme, they will also bring home a sheet of words that the book focusses on. Please practice these each week with your child as well as read through their E-book at least 3 times once it has been assigned as this will really support your child in their reading. More details around this will be explained at the reading presentation.

Year 1 children will have homework set weekly. One week this will be an English based task and the next a maths one- these will both be put into their home learning book. Year 1 children will also have weekly spellings linked to their learning in phonics and need to continue to read their assigned E-book every week – their new log in details will be stuck into their reading diary with their new storywings grid.

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All children will have a session once a week on a Thursday where they will go to the school library and choose a book to take home and enjoy.

**General Reminders**
Please ensure your child has full PE kit (white top, red shorts, and plain trainers with socks.) Children should bring PE kits in on Monday and take them home on Fridays ready for washing. Our PE days will be Monday and Friday. Long hair should always be tied up using plain hair accessories. Children should not have nail polish or 'tattoos.' For Health and Safety reasons, earrings cannot be worn for PE; these should be either removed by children or ideally, not worn at all on PE days. Please ensure school bags do not have keyrings or attached toys and that children do not bring in toys from home in case they get lost or damaged.

Over the whole year, we are encouraging the children to develop a sense of spirituality and awe by noticing the beauty and wonder in the world around them. This might be as simple as spotting the colours of the leaves changing, watching the clouds move across the sky, or watching a squirrel in our outdoor area. We would really appreciate your support in nurturing this curiosity at home. Please take a photo of something your child notices and finds special in the world around them—such as autumn leaves, a flower, a sunset, or the frost on a spiders web for example, and send it in to share with the class. These photos will be added to our class book and will help us celebrate the children's observations together and encourage them to see the world as a wonderful place.

We are very much looking forward to an exciting term of fun activities and would like to thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns- the children all have a home- school communication book for any notes which we need to be aware of- such as if they are being collected by someone different.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Michelle Cooke