Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

Woodpeckers Class

Dear Parents,
Welcome back to a brand-new school year. I hope you've had a relaxing summer full of well-deserved family time and the children are feeling rested. I am excited to see where the 2026-27 adventure takes us! Please see below for important information regarding our curriculum for the Autumn Term.

Our Big Enquiry Question throughout the first half of the Autumn Term is **'What makes a community strong?'** which will be driven by our RE and History units.

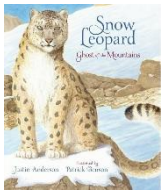
Our Big Enquiry Question throughout the second half of the Autumn Term is **'What helps living things survive and flourish?'** which will be driven by our science unit 'Animal Survival'.

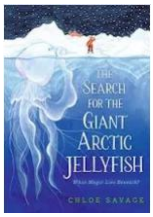
English





We will start the year with 'The Lion and the Mouse', Jerry Pinkney's wordless adaptation of Aesop's fable. Children will bring the illustrations to life by retelling the story as their own written narrative, exploring structure and key messages. We will then enjoy 'The Night Box' by Louise Greig, using its lyrical language as inspiration to create imagery through words and work collaboratively to develop and perform their own poetry.





After half term, we will journey to the Arctic with 'The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish' by Chloe Savage. Children will step into the shoes of an expedition crew member and write an informative letter home about their adventures. We will then explore 'Snow Leopard: Grey Ghost of the Mountain' by Justin Anderson, discovering fascinating facts about snow leopards while developing non-fiction writing skills and creating informative fact files.

Spelling and Reading

Year 2 will start by reviewing the Phase 5 sounds. As part of this they will be continuing to develop fluency in reading longer words. Year 2 will then transition into the Little Wandle spelling scheme through the 'Bridge to Spelling' unit. This is where the children learn to use spelling rules to determine which pattern of a sound to use. The children will be progressing through units whilst revising 'prickly words' (tricky words) and common homophones/near homophones. Spelling tests will be every Friday. The words selected will be linked to the spelling rules we have learnt about that week. We encourage the children to think about this when they are practicing at home.

Year 3 children will follow the 'Spelling Shed' scheme, developing their understanding of common spelling patterns and rules. This term, we will focus particularly on prefixes, including *re-*, *dis-* and *mis-*, as well as adding endings such as *-ing* and *-ed* to longer words. Children will also practise a selection of challenge words to broaden their spelling vocabulary.

Guided reading will take place once a day, where the children implement phonics knowledge and practice comprehending different texts in different ways. The books read during these sessions will reflect the children's current reading stage and the books that are sent home.

Love Hope Justice

Maths

At the start of the term, children will build on their understanding of place value by exploring three-digit numbers in different ways. They will develop fluency in addition and subtraction, using known number bonds to work confidently with larger numbers. Children will then apply these skills to a range of problems, including more challenging two-step problems requiring them to select appropriate strategies. After half term, children will explore fractions, including halves, thirds and quarters, and begin using vocabulary such as numerator and denominator. They will also investigate standard measures of length and capacity, including mm, cm, ml and l. Towards Christmas, children will strengthen their understanding of multiplication and division using the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 times tables to solve problems.

Religious Education (RE)

At the start of the term, children will explore the concept of belonging, considering where and why they feel they belong, including their family, class, school and clubs. They will then explore belonging within Christianity, discovering how Christians experience a sense of community and belonging through the church. After half term, children will explore candlelight as a symbol and the different meanings and feelings it can represent. They will discover the significance of light within Christianity through the Advent wreath. Children will also explore Diwali, learning the story of Rama and Sita and why diva lamps are important to Hindu celebrations.

History

Woodpeckers will begin the year investigating 'I. K. Brunel: engineering genius or reckless risk-taker?' Children will explore Brunel's successes, failures and lasting impact on modern transport. Through comparing past and present transport and exploring different historical accounts, they will develop their historical enquiry skills before using their findings to reach their own judgement about Brunel.

Geography

After half term, Woodpeckers will journey across Europe, developing their locational knowledge of countries and key cities. They will explore Europe's varied regions, identifying human and physical geographical features and building on their map skills. Children will also discover how Europe's natural resources influence trade and its connections with the wider world.

Science

In Science, children will explore magnets and magnetic forces. They will investigate which materials magnets attract and discover how magnets can exert forces without touching. Children will explore north and south poles, attraction and repulsion, before investigating how factors such as distance, materials and magnet strength affect magnetic forces.

After half term, children will explore animal survival and how animals feed, move and use their senses to survive. They will identify different animal groups, distinguish between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, and investigate predators and prey. Children will also explore food chains and how animals use their senses to find food and avoid danger.

Art/ Design Technology (DT)

Our Art learning will be inspired by London and St Paul's Cathedral. Children will discover the architect, Sir Christopher Wren, before experimenting with observational drawing, shading, watercolours and charcoal. Using sketchbooks to develop their ideas, they will then explore sculpture techniques to design and create their own clay artefact inspired by St Paul's Cathedral.

In DT, children will design and make their own hand puppet for a chosen user and purpose. They will explore different fabrics, use templates to cut accurately and learn how to join materials using running stitch. Finally, they will add decorative details and evaluate their finished puppet, considering both its appearance and how well it works.

Physical Education (PE)

Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit into school on Monday morning. They will then bring it home at the end of the week. They need a pair of trainers and socks as part of their kit. If your child has their ears pierced, please ensure that: they do not wear earrings on the days we have PE, that they can independently take their earrings out, or that you have provided tape to prevent injury. Additionally, it is our school policy that long hair should be always tied back. This is especially the case on PE days. Woodpeckers PE days will normally be on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

At the start of the term, children will enjoy circuit training and gymnastics. They will learn about healthy exercise, strength and flexibility, before exploring different gymnastic movements and sequences. Children will also develop teamwork and self-evaluation through giving and receiving feedback. After half term, PE will focus on street dance and invasion games. Children will create dance sequences using rhythm, movement and direction. In games, they will develop teamwork and tactical skills through passing, moving into space, supporting teammates, defending and winning possession.

Computing

During the first half of the Autumn term, the children will be reintroduced to the information technology around them. They will practice basic functions such as resizing images and accessing files independently. In each unit throughout the year there will be an element of e-safety. The children will be taught how to use information from technology safely and respectfully. Following this, the children will explore digital music and how it can communicate different feelings and ideas. They will experiment with rhythm, pitch and tempo before using computers to compose their own music for a purpose. Children will then review, edit and improve their compositions.

Music

The first half of Autumn brings music to life as children experiment with the different sounds instruments can make. They will use movement, rhythm and their imaginations to create animal-inspired music, recording their ideas using symbols on graphic scores before rehearsing and performing their compositions. After this, the children take on a musical journey through high and low sounds! They will listen closely to melodies, identify changes in pitch and discover how musical notes can be represented. Children will build confidence placing notes on a simple musical stave.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economics)

At the start of the term, we will celebrate what makes each of us unique and where we belong. Children will explore identity, diversity and the ingredients of a great friendship. They will learn how to maintain friendships, resolve disagreements and appreciate being part of a community. After half term, the children will be focusing on wellbeing. Children will learn to recognise and talk about different thoughts, feelings and emotions, including worry. They will explore practical ways to manage distractions, develop helpful thinking patterns and discover how staying calm can help them manage their responses.

French

In French, children will build confidence greeting and describing themselves and others. They will learn forms of the verb être (to be), use familiar adjectives and explore simple sentence structures. Speaking and listening activities will help children develop vocabulary and practise accurate French pronunciation.

Home Learning

Year 2

- Each week the children will receive spelling words demonstrating the spelling rule we have been focusing on during lessons. They should practice writing these words, remembering the rules that they will be tested on, on Fridays. Please encourage the children to use the correct spelling rules when practicing.
- The children should also work towards achieving their Story Wings badge. Please see the sheet glued into the inner cover of their reading diary for the genre categories.
- Each week the children will receive either Maths or English home learning. Sometimes, the children may be instructed to use Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) as their Maths home learning. Please see the inner cover of your child's reading diary for login details. **All home learning will be glued into**

the children's home learning books on Fridays. Home learning is due in every Thursday. We encourage the children to treat their home learning books with respect and to treat them as they would their learning books at school.

- Children will be assigned ebooks via the Collins Hub every Friday. When children have reached the end of Phase 5 books, they will begin to bring home colour banded books that are set in correspondence to their reading attainment. Children should read their assigned book **at least 3 times a week for 10 minute each time. Parents should please log this in their reading diaries.** Please see the inner cover of your child's reading diary for login details.

Year 3

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- The children should also work towards achieving their Story Wings badge. Please see the sheet glued into the inner cover of their reading diary for the genre categories.
- Each week the children will receive Maths and English home learning tasks. Sometimes, the children may be instructed to use Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) as their Maths home learning. Please see the inner cover of your child's reading diary for login details. **All home learning will be glued into the children's home learning books on Fridays. Home learning is due in every Thursday. We encourage the children to treat their home learning books with respect and to treat them as they would their learning books at school.**
- Year 3 children on colour banded book will continue to bring home books that are set in colour bands corresponding to their reading attainment. Children should read their book **at least 3 times a week for 10 minute each time. Parents should please log this in their reading diaries.**

Finally, please ensure that the home-school communication books are used for any messages or questions.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lydia Wells,

Class Teacher