Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Robins Class Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed some well-deserved time off.

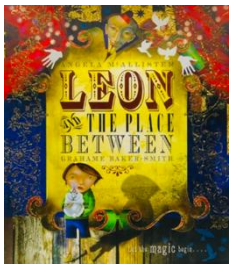
My name is Miss Morgan, and I am delighted to introduce myself as your child's new teacher in Robins Class. As this is my first year teaching at Preston Candover Primary School, I am very much looking forward to getting to know each child, helping them grow in confidence and independence, and supporting them to achieve their very best throughout the year. This term is packed with exciting learning opportunities as we journey towards the Christmas holidays. Below, you will find an overview of the learning and experiences we will be exploring throughout the Autumn Term.

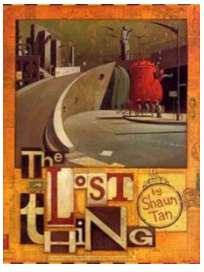
Our learning this term will be connected through two exciting Big Enquiry Questions: "How can one person or idea change the world?" in Autumn 1 and "How are living things connected?" in Autumn 2. These questions will encourage the children to think deeply, make connections across the curriculum and develop a greater understanding of the world around them.

Geography – This term, we will explore the diverse places and landscapes of North and South America, investigating our Big Enquiry Question, "How diverse are the places and landscapes of North and South America?" Children will develop their understanding of physical and human geography, exploring climate, biomes and natural resources while comparing different regions across the two continents. They will use maps, atlases and digital mapping to develop their locational knowledge and geographical skills, using accurate geographical vocabulary to describe and compare places.

History – This term, we will explore the fascinating civilisation of Ancient Greece, investigating our Big Enquiry Question, "How have the Ancient Greeks influenced our lives today?" Children will develop their understanding of the achievements, beliefs and daily life of the Ancient Greeks, discovering how their ideas have shaped aspects of the modern world. They will investigate the influence of Ancient Greece on areas such as democracy, language, architecture, sport, theatre and philosophy, while developing their skills as historians by asking questions, examining evidence and presenting their findings in a variety of engaging ways. We look forward to seeing the children discover just how much Ancient Greece still influences our lives today and hearing the fascinating questions they ask along the way!

English – This term, we will embark on two exciting writing journeys inspired by the captivating texts *Leon and the Place Between* by Angela McAllister and *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan. As we journey into Leon's magical world, the children will become immersed in the story through drama, role play, hot-seating, freeze frames and rich discussion, encouraging them to step into the characters' shoes and explore their thoughts, feelings and motivations. They will gather ambitious vocabulary, unpick the author's language and explore high-quality model texts to discover how authors create atmosphere and engage their readers before crafting their own descriptive narratives. Later in the term, the children will delve into *The Lost Thing*, exploring themes of belonging, kindness and individuality as they write a thoughtful memoir recount from a character's perspective. Throughout both units, the children will work collaboratively to plan, draft, edit and improve their writing before proudly publishing their finished pieces. Year





Love Hope Justice

4 children will develop their use of coordination and subordination, fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases, while Year 5 children will focus on sentence variety, varied sentence openings, precise vocabulary, formal and informal language, and cohesion between paragraphs.

Maths - This term, we will continue to develop our mathematical confidence, curiosity and resilience through a range of practical and problem-solving activities. We will begin by strengthening our understanding of place value before developing fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using a range of mental and written calculation strategies. As the term progresses, we will also explore time, fractions and shape, applying our learning to increasingly challenging reasoning and real-life problems. Throughout our lessons, children will explain and justify their mathematical thinking, use practical resources to deepen their understanding, and work collaboratively to solve problems. We will continue to develop rapid recall of multiplication facts through regular practice in school and would greatly appreciate your support at home by encouraging regular use of Times Tables Rock Stars. This will benefit all children and help our Year 4 pupils build the confidence and fluency needed for the national Multiplication Tables Check later in the year.

Science – This term, we will become scientists as we investigate the fascinating world of Forces and Magnets through practical enquiries and hands-on investigations. Children will make predictions, ask scientific questions and carry out fair tests, developing their skills in observing, measuring, recording and presenting results. They will explore how magnets work by investigating magnetic forces, poles and the factors that affect magnetic strength, before discovering how friction, air resistance and water resistance influence the movement of different objects. Throughout the unit, children will use scientific vocabulary to explain their ideas, draw conclusions from evidence and deepen their understanding of how forces affect the world around us.

Computing – In Autumn 1, we will explore Computing Systems and Networks: Systems and Searching. Children will learn how computer systems work together, how search engines find and rank information, and how to search effectively using keywords while evaluating the reliability of the information they find online. In Autumn 2, we will move on to Creating Media: Video Production, where children will plan, film and edit their own videos. They will explore different camera shots and angles, create storyboards and use editing tools to refine their work before sharing their finished videos with an audience.

Music – We are delighted that the children will once again benefit from specialist Music lessons delivered by HIAS Music this year. In Autumn 1, the children will explore Compose and Create, developing their creativity by experimenting with rhythm, melody and different ways of composing their own music. In Autumn 2, they will move on to Playing Together, where they will develop their performance skills by working collaboratively, exploring a range of instruments and performing as part of an ensemble. We are looking forward to seeing the children's confidence and enjoyment of music continue to flourish throughout the year!

PSHE – In Autumn 1, Robins Class will focus on Friendships, Stereotypes and Bullying, exploring what makes a positive and healthy friendship, how to build respectful relationships, and how to recognise and challenge stereotypes and bullying behaviour. Through discussion, role play and reflection, children will develop strategies to resolve conflicts, celebrate differences and understand the importance of treating others with kindness, respect and empathy. In Autumn 2, we will move on to Mental Health and Wellbeing, where children will learn about the importance of looking after their emotional wellbeing. They will explore a range of emotions, develop strategies to manage worries and setbacks, build resilience, and recognise when and how to seek support for themselves or others.

Art - In Autumn 2, Robins Class will study the work of the inspiring American artist Faith Ringgold, who is best known for combining storytelling with art through her colourful Story Quilts. Children will investigate the features of her artwork, experimenting with colour, pattern, printing and textile techniques before designing and creating their own Story Cloths inspired by their own ideas and experiences. Throughout the unit, they will develop their drawing, painting and textile skills while learning how artists use creativity to tell stories, celebrate culture and share important messages.

DT- In Autumn 1, Robins Class will become chocolate designers as they take on the exciting challenge of creating their own Fairtrade chocolate bar. The children will begin by exploring where chocolate comes from and learning about the importance of Fairtrade, discovering how it supports

farmers and promotes ethical and sustainable production. They will then become real product designers by investigating existing chocolate bars, carrying out surveys and interviews to find out what consumers want, and developing a design brief for their own product. Using their research, they will design eye-catching packaging, carefully select ingredients to appeal to their chosen target audience and create their very own chocolate bar. Throughout the project, children will develop their designing, making and evaluating skills before presenting and evaluating their finished products against their original design criteria. We can't wait to see the fantastic ideas, creativity and entrepreneurial thinking that this unit will inspire!

R.E – In Autumn 1, Robins Class will explore Christian Miracle Stories, asking the big enquiry question, "What kind of world did Jesus want?" Through studying stories from the Gospels, children will learn why Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God and explore how his miracles demonstrate God's power, love and compassion. They will also consider how Jesus' teachings about kindness, forgiveness and putting others first continue to influence the lives of Christians today. In Autumn 2, we will explore Christmas: The Annunciation, asking "What is the Trinity?" Children will learn about the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary and why this event is such an important part of the Christian faith. They will explore Christians' beliefs about the Incarnation and the Trinity, developing their understanding of why the birth of Jesus is central to the Christmas story.

French – Throughout the Autumn Term, Robins Class will be learning how to describe themselves and others in French. Children will develop their understanding of the verb être (*to be*), learning how to use its plural forms to talk about groups of people. They will also explore a range of adjectives and learn how these change to agree with masculine, feminine and plural nouns, enabling them to build increasingly accurate and confident sentences. Through a variety of speaking, listening, reading and practical activities, children will develop their confidence in using French vocabulary and begin to communicate with greater fluency. French lessons will continue to be taught by Mrs Wilson, whose enthusiasm and expertise always inspire the children to enjoy learning a new language. We look forward to hearing the children use their growing French vocabulary with increasing confidence throughout the term.

P.E – Throughout the Autumn Term, Robins Class will develop their physical skills, teamwork and confidence through a range of exciting sporting activities. In Autumn 1, we will begin with Tag Rugby, where children will develop their passing, communication and attacking skills while learning the importance of teamwork and fair play. Alongside this, we will explore Gymnastics, focusing on body tension, balance, control and creating increasingly complex sequences using a variety of shapes and movements. In Autumn 2, we will move on to Hockey, developing stick control, passing, shooting and tactical game play, before exploring Dance, where children will use movement to communicate ideas and emotions while creating and performing their own dance sequences. Throughout all of our PE lessons, we will encourage resilience, determination and good sportsmanship, ensuring every child feels confident to challenge themselves, support others and enjoy being active.

'Leader in Me' Throughout the Curriculum - This term, we will continue to embed the Leader in Me programme throughout life in Robins Class, helping the children to develop the leadership and life skills they need to thrive. Building on the learning from previous years, the children will continue to apply The 7 Habits through their learning and everyday experiences in school. They will create their own Personal Mission Statements, helping them to reflect on their strengths, values and aspirations for the year ahead. Throughout the term, we will also focus on developing a growth mindset, resilience and perseverance, encouraging the children to embrace challenges, reflect on how they learn and take increasing ownership of their learning. We will continue to celebrate children who demonstrate the habits and support them in becoming confident, independent and responsible leaders.

Home Learning – English and Maths home learning will be set each Friday and should be returned by the following Thursday. Topic-based home learning will be set when appropriate, with plenty of time for children to complete and enjoy the activities. Spellings will also be set and tested weekly. We would greatly appreciate your continued support in encouraging your child to read regularly at home, as this plays a vital role in developing confidence, fluency and a lifelong love of reading. We also encourage children to practise their times tables regularly using Times Tables Rock Stars, as rapid recall of multiplication facts is essential for success across many areas of mathematics.

General Reminders - Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school every Monday, where it will remain until Friday, as PE days are currently scheduled for every Monday and Friday afternoon. Long hair should be tied back for PE, and children should not wear jewellery, nail varnish or temporary tattoos to school. Pencil cases should be slim and contain only essential equipment, and we kindly ask that school bags do not have keyrings or toys attached. If you need to contact me, please use your child's home-school communication book for important messages, such as changes to collection arrangements, and remind your child to hand it in each morning. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch—I am looking forward to a fantastic year with Robins Class!

Yours sincerely,
Miss Morgan, Class Teacher.