Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

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Dear Parents and Carers,



Kingfishers Class Newsletter

Welcome back to the summer term, I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. This term is a busy term, especially for our Year 6 children, as they have their SATs. They have all been working incredibly hard and I wanted to thank parents for their support in helping children at home, it has made a big difference in school and to your child's confidence. I am very excited for the term ahead; we have many enjoyable things planned.

First half term**: History: Egyptians in depth and overview of early civilisations**

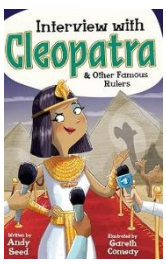
Big Question: **How can we be sure of what really happened in our past?'**

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 this 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.

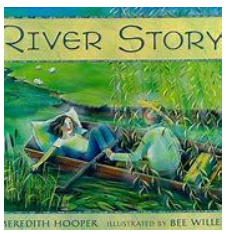
Second half term**: Geography: River Trees, rivers and the water cycle**

Big Question: **What if all the rivers on Earth stopped flowing?**

In this topic, the children will find out more about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages that have developed on their banks. By looking at the features of rivers, and the natural and human ways that rivers change over time, children will explore the life stories of rivers. Children will learn the names and locations of the major rivers of the UK and the world. They will be locating the rivers of the UK and comparing them to different countries around the world using: maps, atlases, globes and digital computing mapping. Kingfisher Class will explore the positive and negative effects of rivers to different groups of people around the world and will consider how it may affect different areas in the future.



English- The children in Kingfisher class continue to surprise me with their amazing writing ability, their writing is a pleasure to read and incredibly emotive. This term, we will be getting to grips with the editing and improving process, as we can get carried away with our writing and may need to be reminded to re- read and edit. We will begin the term ensuring that we have developed our reading comprehension skills so that we can skim and scan a text effectively and ensure we can answer reading comprehension questions to our best ability. We will also revise all the GPAS definitions so that we are super confident that all children know what everything means, as there is a lot to remember! The children in Kingfisher class have a very good understanding of



Love Hope Justice

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the features that belong to each text type therefore they will be given more independence in their writing. The text we will be reading linked to the Ancient Egyptian topic will be 'Interview with Cleopatra and Other Famous Rulers' By Andy Seed. We will be ending this year reading texts linked to our river topic, which are: 'River story' by Meredith Hooper and Bee Willey and a variety of poems from 'Hot Like Fire and Other Poems' by Valerie Bloom but with a focus on the lovely poem 'I asked the rivers', that I know the children will really enjoy.

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 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 homework. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions, as I am more than happy to help, the questions the children need to solve can be very challenging.

Science-In Science, children will firstly learn about light and how it enables us to see. They will explore a range of light sources and understand that light is essential for vision, as well as learning how to keep their eyes safe in sunlight. The unit also examines how light interacts with different materials, including transparent, translucent and opaque objects, and how these properties affect the formation of shadows and reflections. Children will investigate how the position of a light source changes the size of shadows and how reflective surfaces bounce light.

Later in the term, children will learn about forces that oppose motion, including air resistance, water resistance and friction. They will explore how objects moving through air and water experience resistance, and why water creates greater resistance than air. They will develop an understanding of friction as a force caused by surfaces rubbing together due to tiny, uneven bumps. Finally, children will be introduced to simple mechanisms such as levers and pulleys, learning how these can be used to reduce the amount of force needed to move objects by changing how effort is applied.

DT- Our Design Technology unit this term will be linked to the Egyptians. We will begin this unit by recognising the dangers within the kitchen and as a result, work as a team to establish safe and hygienic practices when handling, preparing, cooking and storing food. When we are confident with this, we will be analysing different types of bread by exploring the appearance, smell, taste, texture, colour, cost, weight, and shape. We will then research and discover what Ancient Egyptians ate. Leading to our final product, where we hope all children will be able to follow a recipe to make Egyptian bread.

Art-Throughout this Art topic the children will be exploring the artwork of Karen Lynch and will be using their topic of 'Rivers' as their main art theme. They will make thoughtful observations about starting points and select ideas to use in their artwork. They will experiment with the art of collage and understand what atmospheric perspective is and the effect it has on an audience. By the end of the unit, they will create a piece of art that includes collage, atmospheric perspective, futuristic and digital art, just like Karen Lynch uses in her artwork.

Computing- The terms computing unit is: 'Video editing' Kingfisher class will learn how to create short videos by working in pairs or groups. As they progress through this unit, they will be exposed to topic-based language and develop the skills of capturing, editing, and manipulating video. Learners are guided with step-by-step support to take their idea from conception to completion. At the conclusion of the unit, learners have the opportunity to reflect on and assess their progress in creating a video.

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Music- This term, Kingfisher Class will be exploring the unit: Compose and rehearse: creating and combining minimalist Cells. All children will learn how to create short musical ideas, called minimalist cells and experiment with layering and repeating them to build rich, textured compositions. Through listening, composing and rehearsing, they will develop their creativity, collaboration and confidence as they combine these small patterns into larger, dynamic pieces. In the second half of the term, they will be learning to play the ukulele. They will start by mastering basic chords and strumming patterns, before putting these skills into practice by performing simple songs. This hands-on experience will help them understand rhythm, melody and harmony, while boosting their confidence and enjoyment of making music together.

PSHE/RSHE - In the first half of term we will be focusing on the question 'How can we keep healthy as we grow?' This will support the children in looking after themselves as they are growing up, becoming more independent and taking more responsibility. They will learn how mental and physical health are linked and how to make choices that support a healthy and balanced lifestyle. This can be achieved through eating healthy meals, staying physically active, getting a good amount of sleep, balance time spent online with other activities, maintaining good personal hygiene and dental health and staying safe in the sun. They will also develop a stronger understanding of how friendships and being part of activities, clubs and community groups can have a positive effect on their mental health and wellbeing.

In the second half term of PSHE/RSHE, both Year 5 and 6 will cover the statutory RSHE syllabus, which explores the emotional and physical changes in puberty. Year 6 will learn about human reproduction in context of human lifecycle and how a baby is made and grows. As a school, we follow the Medway RSE resources for the teaching of RSHE; this is an age-appropriate scheme of work which is quality assured by the PSHE association. This unit will also support the children in becoming more independent, through increased responsibility. Children will learn how friendships may change as they grow and how we manage this. Our aim, this term is to get Year 6 children ready for their next step in life with their transition to Year 7. We will also ensure that Year 5 feel fully equipped for Year 6, as they become the eldest members of the school. We will encourage all children to ask for support when they need it and where to seek further information and advice regarding growing and changing.

RE- For the first half term, the children will be looking at the concept 'Justice' through the topic 'Stories of Justice'. They will respond and explain creatively what the concept of 'Justice' means and explore their own response to 'Justice' and discern the value of how Justice can be applied in their own and others' lives. They will then explain how 'Justice' is significant in the stories of Jewish people, Christians and Muslims. From this, they will accurately explain the value of *justice* to Jewish people, Christians and Muslims identify, and explain issues raised. At the end of this term, they will be fortunate enough to visit a Synagogue in Southampton, which I know the children will find this trip very interesting.

For the second half of the term Kingfisher class will be exploring the concept 'Umma' through the topic 'Hajj and Zakat'. They will accurately explain the concept of peace by exploring the value to Muslims and identifying and explaining situations or issues that may arise in relation to peace. They will end this unit by explaining a personal response to peace in their own experience. They will then discern the value of how their responses and ideas about peace affect the way they and others behave.

French- In French this term the children will learn to talk about different countries they might visit and use the immediate future tense to say what they are going to do (e.g., *I am going to swim*, *we are going to visit*). They will practise describing basic holiday activities, such as going to the beach, swimming, sightseeing, and cycling. They will also learn vocabulary to talk about the weather and common transport words. To enrich their learning, children will revise numbers from 1–31 through activities like orienteering, helping them talk about dates and plan holiday activities in French.

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P.E – For the first half term, the children will have one lesson of tennis and one lesson of Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA). The second half of the term, Kingfisher class will have one lesson of athletics and one lesson of rounders a week. We are all extremely impressed with Kingfisher class in PE and sporting events, as they have shown fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship. Please ensure your child is coming to school with an appropriate PE kit every day, so they can fully enjoy their PE lessons and the Golden Mile. We would like the children to have a PE kit that stays in school from Monday to Friday and then have a separate PE kit for sporting events to ensure they always have a PE kit in school as they have recently been forgotten due to after school clubs. Please ensure that long hair is always tied up and earrings are taken out or tape is provided for the children to apply on their earrings independently. Thank you for your support with this and I look forward to spending lots of time outside with the children in the hopefully much better weather.

Home learning - Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a Friday and due in on a Thursday. Topic home learning will be set when appropriate, with plenty of time to carry out the task. Spellings will be set and tested every Friday. Please continue to support your children with reading at home and encourage your child to complete an activity (learning tool) in their reading record, so that they are one step closer to achieving their story wings badge. Well done to the children that have already achieved their story wings, we are incredibly proud of you. Your next challenge is to achieve the bronze, silver and gold reading certificates in your reading records. It would be a lovely achievement if all children achieved their story wings this year, as it supports their confidence in reading and writing and once achieved children felt so proud of themselves. If you wish to discuss anything about this term, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Meier
Kingfisher Class teacher