Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Kingfishers Class Newsletter

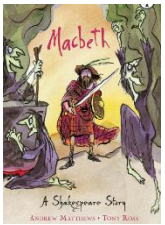
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn term! I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful summer break together. It is so lovely to be back with the children in Kingfisher Class and I am pleased to share the extremely exciting term of learning with you all.

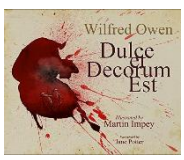
Our learning this term will be connected through two Big Enquiry Questions. In Autumn 1, we will ask "How can sound be used to communicate and influence the world around us?" and in Autumn 2, we will consider "What legacy are you creating?" These questions will encourage the children to make connections between their learning and the wider world.

Geography-This term in Geography, we will be exploring mountains and volcanoes, with a particular focus on Indonesia. Throughout this unit, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of physical geography by learning how mountains and volcanoes are formed, how they change over time and where they are located around the world. They will use maps, atlases and geographical information to accurately locate continents, oceans, mountain ranges and volcanoes, and describe their locations and patterns using the eight points of a compass. The children will investigate the global distribution of volcanoes and how this is linked to tectonic plate boundaries, before exploring the causes and impacts of volcanic eruptions, including the eruption of Anak Krakatoa and the resulting tsunami. They will consider how volcanic activity and mountainous environments affect people, settlements and the natural environment, and explore how communities prepare for, respond to and reduce the risks associated with natural hazards. The children will also compare how different countries, including Indonesia, and how they manage the impacts of volcanic activity and mountainous landscapes. By the end of the unit, they will be able to use geographical vocabulary, maps and evidence to explain geographical processes, identify similarities and differences between places, and communicate their findings using increasingly detailed geographical reasoning.

History- This term in History the children will be studying the Ancient Greeks. Our Big Question for History this term is: What legacy are you creating? All children will gain an understanding of the way of life, beliefs and achievements of the Ancient Greeks. They will also gain an understanding of the scope and range of Greek ideas, achievements and ways of life that are still current or influential today and have also been influential in past eras. Kingfisher class will have the opportunity to become historians through collecting historical information in interesting and varied ways. They will look in depth at Ancient Greeks influences on: politics, language, architecture, sport, theatre and performance and ideas and beliefs. They will present their findings through drama, art galleries, digital presentations, posters and reports. By the end of the unit, all children will be able to answer the big question, with confidence and design a set of stamps, which represent the Greek legacy.

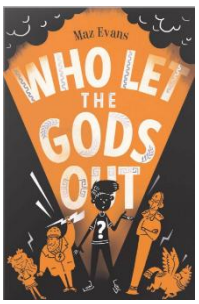


English-This term in English, we will begin by reading *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, adapted by Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross, which I know the children will thoroughly enjoy. All children will begin by finding out more about William Shakespeare followed by the plays he has written. Kingfisher class will explore the play in different ways, through animation, retellings and numerous drama activities. Throughout, they will be writing directors' scenes, a soliloquy, news reports about King Duncan's death, character descriptions, setting descriptions and diary entries. This will then be followed by reading and exploring the poem *Wind* by Dionne Brand. The children will explore the power and effects of wind through poetry, developing their understanding of imagery, language and poetic techniques. We will then move on to *Dulce Decorum Est* by Wilfred Owen, where the children will explore poetry linked to war and remembrance, considering the language, imagery and emotions used by the poet to convey the realities of war. By the end of the unit, I would like the children to create a memorial remembrance poetry picture book



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to inform all ages. We will then hold a readers' theatre in our outdoor classroom, so that groups of children can perform the poem to each other. This will then be followed by reading *Who Let the Gods Out?* by Maz Evans to link with our Ancient Greek topic. Throughout this unit, the children will explore a variety of Greek myths and historical fiction, developing their understanding of character, setting and narrative. By the end of these units, children will be much more confident at writing setting and character descriptions to engage their audience with the historical narrative and Greek myths they create. The children will be given opportunities to see outstanding pieces of writing, have the text types modelled to them or co-constructed as a class, so they feel confident enough with the planning, drafting, editing and finally publishing process.



Maths- This term in Maths, children in Kingfisher class will consolidate and extend their mathematical knowledge across a range of areas, applying what they have already learnt through problem solving and reasoning. They will revisit place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, decimals and fractions, algebra and shape, developing their confidence with both mental and formal written methods. Problem solving and reasoning will be at the heart of this learning, with children encouraged to explain their thinking and use mathematical resources when needed. We will also strongly encourage children to use Times Tables Rock Stars regularly at home and school to develop fluency and accuracy with their times tables, ensuring these key facts are recalled quickly and confidently to support their wider mathematical learning.

Science – In Science lessons this term, we will be learning all about 'Sound'. Kingfisher Class will become scientists by making predictions, asking questions and carrying out lots of exciting investigations into sound, making sure that they use fair tests and recognise and control variables where needed. They will take measurements using a range of scientific equipment, including data loggers, and develop their skills in recording and presenting their findings using tables, graphs, diagrams and labels. Children will explore how sound is made through vibrations and investigate how sound travels through different materials. They will discover how the pitch and volume of sounds can be changed and explore this using a range of musical instruments and everyday objects, including instruments from around the world. They will also investigate how different materials can absorb or reduce sound, thinking about how materials such as those used in ear defenders and soundproofing can help to reduce noise. Throughout the unit, children will use their observations and results to draw conclusions and explain their ideas using scientific evidence. To finish our Science learning this term, we will explore the inspiring story of Helen Keller and how she learned to communicate and speak.

Computing – In Autumn 1, we will begin our Computing learning by exploring 'Communication and Collaboration' and how the World Wide Web can be used as a communication tool. Children will learn how we find information online by exploring how search engines work, including how they select and rank results, and what can influence the information we find. They will compare different search engines and investigate different ways of communicating online, thinking about which methods are most useful for different purposes. In Autumn 2, Kingfisher Class will explore 'Web Page Creation'. They will learn about the different features of webpages and how information can be organised and presented clearly for an audience. Children will plan and create their own webpages, thinking about the content, layout, images and links they use, before reviewing and improving their work and considering how webpages can be used to communicate information effectively.

Music – We have been so impressed with the musical talent in Kingfisher Class and have loved seeing their confidence, enthusiasm and enjoyment grow through singing and music-making. It has been wonderful to see so many children developing a real love for music and feeling proud of their performances. We are very excited to share that HIAS Music are back with us this year, which is fantastic news. This term, the children will be incredibly lucky to have specialist Music lessons with HIAS, where they will have the opportunity to learn more about music, develop their skills and explore and play a range of different instruments. We are really looking forward to seeing their confidence and musical abilities continue to grow!

PSHE – In Autumn 1, Kingfisher Class will focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing, exploring the importance of looking after our mental health and developing strategies to help us manage our emotions, worries, distractions and stress. Children will learn about the different ways our feelings can change and how we can recognise and respond to these feelings in positive and healthy ways. They will also explore how positive thinking, manage setbacks and know when and how to ask for support can help us to look after ourselves and others. In Autumn 2, we will move on to Developing our AI Literacy, where children will explore the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in our everyday lives. They will think about how AI can be useful but also consider some of the challenges and risks that come with using it. Children will develop their understanding of how to

use AI safely and responsibly, think critically about the information it provides and consider how AI can influence the way we communicate, learn and make decisions.

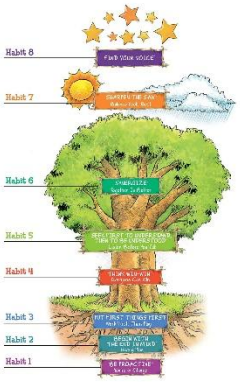
Art- The artist we will be studying this term is Sophilos, who is an Ancient Greek Attic potter and vase painter. Throughout their art session all children will get a stronger understanding of the origin of Greek pottery and the importance of Greek pottery to archaeologist and historians today. They will discover what designs would be found on Greek pottery e.g: patterned borders, geometric shapes, black figures, action and from this design and sketch a Greek pot or plate using traditional Ancient Greek colour. They will explore how Ancient Greek's used mainly earth tone as they would have used natural items that were readily available around them (rocks, minerals, plants). All children will have the opportunity to create a piece of clay pottery, which represents the Greek legacy.

DT- Throughout this DT unit Kingfisher class will be exploring different structures and frames. The children are aiming by the end of the unit to design a model of a building, which would withstand a volcanic eruption, which is linked to our Geography topic. All children will carry out research into user needs and existing products, using surveys, interviews, questionnaires and web-based resources. They will develop a simple design specification to guide the development of their ideas and products, taking account of constraints including time, resources and cost. As well as generating, developing and modelling innovative ideas, through discussion, prototypes and annotated sketches. All children will be encouraged to formulate a clear plan, including a step by-step list of what needs to be done and lists of resources to be used. They will select from and use appropriate tools to accurately measure, mark out, cut, shape and join construction materials to make frameworks and use decorative techniques suitable for the product they are designing and making. At the end of the unit, they will critically evaluate their products against their design specification, intended user and purpose, identifying strengths and areas for development, and carrying out appropriate tests.

R.E – For the first half of the term the children will be focussing on the topic 'Belonging' answering the question 'What does it mean to be a Muslim? Kingfisher class will learn that there are many practices and beliefs that help Muslims belong to their religion. They will discover the importance of The Five Pillars of Islam in helping Muslims all over the world belong to their religion. Understanding that The Five Pillars are declaring your faith in Allah, prayer, charity, fasting in the month of Ramadan and going on a pilgrimage to Mecca (if you are able to). They will also understand Shahada and Salat are important parts of the Islamic faith. For the second half of the term Kingfisher class will be focussing on the topic 'Incarnation- An extraordinary baby' through understanding how Christians perceive the birth of Jesus. They will explore how Christians believe Jesus was God made into a man. They will read a variety of birth narratives that show that Jesus was the Son of God yet also human and different aspects of the birth narratives highlight this, for example the coming of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary Jesus will be the Son of God or an angel appears to the shepherds telling them that the Lord or Messiah has been born.

French – This term, Kingfisher Class will continue to develop their French language skills through a range of fun and practical activities. We will begin with 'Je m'habille', where children will learn to name and describe different items of clothing and use French to say what something is and is not. We will then move on to 'À table!', where children will learn the names of different foods and develop their confidence in describing and talking about them. They will learn to express their opinions using phrases such as 'J'aime', 'Je n'aime pas', 'J'adore' and 'Je déteste', as well as using 'Je voudrais' to say what food they would like. Through speaking, listening, reading and writing activities, children will build their vocabulary, develop their pronunciation and become increasingly confident in communicating in French.

P.E – This term in PE, Kingfisher Class will develop their skills across a range of exciting activities. In our outdoor PE sessions, we will be learning Tag Rugby and Basketball, developing our throwing, catching, movement, teamwork and game skills. In our indoor sessions, we will explore Dance, using *Theseus and the Minotaur* as inspiration, and Gymnastics, focusing on shapes, balances and controlled movements. Throughout all of our PE lessons, our main focus will be on showing good sportsmanship and using the Habits 'Think Win Win' and 'Synergising' to make sure everyone feels involved, supported and celebrated. Please ensure your child comes to school with the correct school PE kit. We would like PE kits to come into school every Monday and stay in school throughout the week, ready for any changes to our PE days at short notice, and they can be taken home on Friday. This will ensure that the children are always prepared and can fully enjoy their PE lessons and the Golden Mile. Many thanks for your support with this.



'Leader in Me' Throughout the Curriculum-This term, we will continue to embed the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People throughout the Kingfishers curriculum, helping children to develop the leadership and life skills they need to thrive. Having now been introduced to all 8 habits, the children will continue to put them into practice through their learning and everyday experiences in school. We will develop our Personal/Class Mission Statement, Learning Powers and Leadership Roles, giving children opportunities to take responsibility and recognise their strengths. We will also focus on Thinking About Thinking, Growth Mindset and Student-Led Learning, encouraging children to reflect on how they learn, embrace challenges and take greater 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 – Maths and English home learning will be set each Friday and will be due in 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 every Friday. Please continue to support your child with reading at home and encourage them to complete an activity or Learning Tool in their reading record, helping them to work towards achieving their Story Wings badge. It would be a wonderful achievement to see all of Kingfisher Class achieve their Story Wings badge this year! Reading regularly and completing these activities will help to build their confidence in both reading and writing, and we know how proud the children feel when they achieve their badge. We would also encourage all children to continue practising their times tables regularly on TTRS, as this will support them with their Year 6 Maths learning and help them to become more fluent and confident with their multiplication facts.

General Reminders - Please ensure your child brings a full PE kit to school every Monday, which will remain in school for the week and be taken home on Fridays, as PE days may change at short notice. Children should not wear watches or earrings during PE. Please ensure that long hair is always tied back for health and safety reasons. Also, we ask that children do not wear nail polish or temporary tattoos in school. Kingfisher Class pupils are encouraged to bring in their own pencil cases and equipment. Pencil cases should be slim, as they will be kept in trays at school. It is important that pupils prioritise items that will be useful during daily lessons. These include a blue handwriting pen (no biros, please), writing pencils, a pencil sharpener, a rubber, a ruler, a glue stick and a small selection of colouring pencils. Providing their own equipment helps the children to practise Leadership Habits 2 and 3 and enables them to maximise their learning time. Finally, please ensure that school bags do not have keyrings or toys attached If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. As a reminder, children have home-school communication books for important parent messages, such as changes to collection arrangements. Please, also remind you child to show us their book when they come in to school. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything about this term, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are looking forward to a fantastic term ahead!

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Meier
Class Teacher

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