



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Wrens Class – Year R Class Newsletter Autumn term 2021



Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed making some lovely memories. Welcome to the Wrens class and the start of a new, exciting academic year. Our main priorities for this term will be settling your child into the school routine, getting to know them and providing a happy, smooth transition from home to school to create a positive attitude towards learning.

Our Big Question for the first half of the term is: “What makes me special?”

To explore this concept we will talk about how we have changed since birth and it would be helpful if you could send a photo of your child as a baby together with a fairly recent photo so that we can make comparisons and see if we can tell who is who from the baby photo. We will see if children can match the baby to the child. All photos will be returned to you after half term, when our topic will change.

We would also like to find out about the places we went to on holiday this year. We would therefore appreciate a postcard or photograph of somewhere you have visited or spent a day out at during the holidays.

Our Big Question for the second half of the term is: “What makes a house a home?”

To help us answer this question we will be exploring the children’s ideas as well as finding out about the different types of homes we live in and about some of the different styles of homes around the world. We also plan to go a village walk to look at the different types of houses there are in Preston Candover. After our village walk we will analyse the data we collected to see how many different types of house we found.

Literacy

Our focussed activities will be based on different texts each week. During the first half of term we will be using stories such as “Dogger” by Shirley Hughes to talk about our special and favourite toys, “Owl Babies” by Martin Waddell and “Titch” by Pat Hutchins to inspire talk about how things change over time and develop a sense of our personal history.

Your child will start to bring home books to share at home- we will send out a letter relating specifically to reading soon.

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In the second half of the term we will be join in with the “World Nursery Rhyme week” with their rhyme a day challenge. As part of our topic we will be looking at non-fiction texts and talking about the characteristics of non-fiction books. We shall also carry out lots of drama and creative work around the stories ‘The Three Little Pigs, ‘Town Mouse and Country Mouse’ and ‘A Squash and a Squeeze” as well as exploring poetry using Michael Rosen’s poem “Our house.”

Maths

In maths we will be concentrating on counting, recognising numbers and ordering them to 10 and beyond and start to develop our understanding of the composition of numbers to 10. We will also be sorting, matching and making repeating patterns using different resources.

Understanding the World

For Religious Education, our focus will be “Birthdays” during the first half of term. We will be discussing the traditions of birthday parties and the significance of birthday candles. If you have any cards or invitations at home that we could use as part of this focus, we would be grateful if you could send them in.

The focus for our RE after half term will be The Church as God’s house where we will be looking at the church in the village, talking about the characteristics of a church and what people do when they go to church. We will also explore the question “Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?” to develop our understanding of the Christmas story

Past and Present

During the first half of term we will explore about how things change over time and develop a sense of our personal history. We will create our own personal timelines of events in our lives so far.

After half term we will use the rhymes “Polly put the kettle on” and “Mary had a little lamb” to explore how things have changed over time and how things used to be in the past. For example we will look at why Polly had to put the kettle on and not just switch it on.

The Natural World

Our science focus for the first half of term will be about our bodies, concentrating on our skeleton, naming the different parts of our body and how we use our amazing body in day to day life and what we can do with it. We will also incorporate this focus with art work within the classroom.

After half term we will look at homes from around the world and make comparisons between them. We will find out about the various materials that can be used to build houses and think about why some houses have a flat roof whilst others are pitched. We will be using the story of the 3 Little Pigs to carry out investigations about the strength of the materials the pigs used to build their homes.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creatively we will paint pictures of ourselves, make a mobile for a baby, hand paint and make skeleton pictures during the first half of term. We will also be looking at Van Gogh’s self- portrait and creating our own. After half term we will look at another piece of art by Van Gogh- the bedroom and draw/paint our own bedrooms.

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We will also be looking at the environment around us and making observational drawings of the things we notice. In particular we will look at the beautiful tree outside our classroom and how it changes over the seasons, recording the changes through observational drawings.

After half term we will look at all the beautiful autumnal colours and explore colour mixing to print autumn collages using the colours we create.

Physical development

We have two PE sessions a week for dance, gym and games. 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 for washing. They need a pair of trainers as part of their kit as we also use them for the Golden Mile which we do throughout the week as part of a whole school challenge.

Baseline Assessment

This year the Reception Baseline Assessment is statutory. This is a new national assessment that will be administered to all children in Reception classes in their first 6 weeks of starting school. The assessment will 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 build upon their learning.

Tapestry

Tapestry accounts have now been transferred or created and are being set up for all the children. You should soon receive an email notification in order to be able to access it. If you have not received this then please let us know through the school admin address (admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk) so that we can help.

We would like to thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact us- (via the admin email account above) if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Michelle Cooke and Mrs Sarah Defferding (Class teachers) Mrs Alex Croombs (LSA)

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