



# Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## Kingfishers Class – Years 5/6 Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2021



Welcome back to the Autumn term! I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful Summer break. This looks like it is going to be an extremely exciting term!

### **Our Big Question for the first half term: Is every country equal?**

Geography: I am very excited to be teaching this brand-new Geography topic - '**Australia and Russia natural resources- equalities**'. I hope your child enjoyed their summer home-learning and we are looking forward to hearing and seeing all they have learnt so far. The main aim of this unit is to improve each child's knowledge and understanding of the distribution of natural resources and understand that they are unevenly distributed and used. Each child will be able to locate and identify continents and oceans, identify the human and physical features of Australia and Russia, describe the pattern across the country using the eight points of a compass and describe where the natural resources are around the world. They will understand not everyone in the world is as fortunate and has access to as much clean water, food, and natural resources as we do. Kingfisher Class will evaluate which resources are the most important and will justify where they would choose to live. We will be exploring the question: could we survive and thrive without the rest of the world?

### **Our Big Question for the second half- term: Why does parliament run the country rather than the Queen?**

History and Art- '**The changing power of monarchs**'- We will begin this topic, by looking into King John and the affect he had on the parliament running the country. Each child will analyse a range of sources to discover the positive and negative moments in King John's reign. We will then move onto creating a class blog, which will include our findings on James I. Our next monarch will be Queen Anne and whether we think she was a powerful monarch or not. Kingfisher Class will create a snakes and ladders game to illustrate the ups and downs of Queen Anne's life. Another question we will be exploring is: 'Queen Victoria is a very well-known Queen, does that mean she had lots of power?' During this aspect of the topic, we will be creating an exhibit to celebrate Queen Victoria's life and reign for a pop-up museum. The class will vote for Queen Victoria's parliament's position and whether Queen Victoria was politically powerful or just a respected and loved figurehead. To complete this topic, the class will be producing a video for TV series 'Mighty Monarchs' to share their knowledge of all the monarchs they have been looking at in detail. During Art lessons this term, we will be sketching and printing, inspired by Victorian artists: Thomas Bewick and William Morris

English- For the first term in English, we will be linking our novel to our Russia topic by exploring 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell, who is a fantastic author. During this unit of writing, all children will be developing their creativity and descriptive language, as they write character and setting descriptions. They will be creating speeches and black- out poetry and performing these to their peers. They will end this unit by creating a non- chronological report on wolves and writing a diary entry from the perspective of their favourite character. Continuing the wolf theme, we will be reading our linking texts: The Ways of the Wolf and Fourteen Wolves: A rewilding story. We will be writing persuasive letters to a range of audiences, focussing on animal treatment and whether wolves should be re-introduced to Britain.

For the second half term, linking to our 'Changing Power of Monarchs' topic, we will be reading 'Street child' and in Guided Reading we will firstly be reading 'Treason' and then 'Far from home', which is a sequel to 'Street Child'. All texts are written by Berlie Doherty, and I ensure you all children will be hooked! Every child will develop their reading and comprehension skills, as well as their confidence to read aloud to peers. We also encourage the children in Kingfisher class to express themselves in a variety of Drama activities. This will include hot seating characters from 'Street child', conscience alley and freeze-framing scenes from the story, which supports their understanding of key events. Throughout this topic, the children will have the opportunity to write: diary entries, poems, balanced arguments, book reviews and their own story from the Victorian era.

Maths - Children in Kingfisher class will be consolidating many areas of the curriculum and applying 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. Kingfisher class will also be able to use 'My Maths' and Times Tables Rock Stars for home-learning, which can be accessed from both home and school.

Science and DT- In Science lessons this term, we will be studying 'mixing and changing substances' and 'Controlling electrical currents'. Each child will become scientists that will be encouraged to question the world around them and get actively involved in lots of different experiments. They will firstly be planning and leading an experiment to test what substances are reversible or irreversible when mixed with other substances, which could get very messy! We will then be investigating what happens to substances when they are heated through cooking and whether or not they could get their original ingredients back. Each child will be faced with numerous experiments to find out whether gas weighs anything. Lastly, during both Science and DT lessons, Kingfisher class will be advertising how to stay safe around electricity; they will create their own safe electrical circuits and find out if Duracell batteries really are the best at storing energy! We will end this aspect of Science and DT by creating electrical games based around our current learning.

Computing-We will begin computing this year by re-capping online safety. Then all children will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. They will explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. Kingfisher Class will also take part in a collaborative online project with other class members and develop their skills in working together online. Our second unit looks at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records. All children will use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data. They will create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems.

Music- In Music this term, all children will be developing an understanding of the history and context of music through our topic 'Livin' on a Prayer'. All children will appreciate a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music from different traditions and from great composers and musicians. A focus in Music this term will be to sing as part of an ensemble with confidence and precision, in the lead up to our Christmas performance. All children will be encouraged to improve songs, through adding musical instruments and working in groups to improve the vocals and lyrics of the original songs. We also are incredibly fortunate enough to learn to play instruments with HIAS music specialists this term.

P.S.H.E and Citizenship- Kingfisher class will begin this term by getting to know each other as a new class. Some children already know each other well but through regular circle times and PSHE lessons they will be able to build up stronger friendships, through thinking of other's feelings, opinions, and values. The children will be given roles and responsibilities throughout the school year. Our lesson focusses will be: how relationships change as we get older, the different types of relationships and the skills to maintain positive and healthy relationships. Respecting others viewpoint and challenging stereotypes and discrimination. Our personal safety, managing dares and looking after our mental health.

R.E – In RE, we will be looking at Eid-ul-Adha, exploring how Muslims focus on sacrifice during this festival. We will be discovering the meaning and the importance of sacrifice to Muslims. As well as, reflecting and describing how sacrifice applies to their own and others' lives. For the second half- term, we will be analysing the question: 'Why do Christians believe Jesus is God on Earth?'

French - Kingfisher Class will learn associated language and use this to write, say simple sentences and conversations. Our main focus this term will be introducing new vocabulary surrounding: age, where I live, family members, pets, numbers, dates, describing myself and others and Christmas.

P.E – We will begin by developing our gymnastics and netball skills. After half- term we will be starting Dance with inspiration from our Changing Power of Monarchs topic. All children will have the opportunity to run the Golden Mile as much as possible Please ensure that your child comes to school on a Monday with a full PE kit and ensure it stays in school all week, just in case we choose to do extra PE sessions within the week. will be starting this term with Dance (Victorians).

Home-learning - Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a Friday. 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. It would be a lovely achievement if all children achieved their story wings badge 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 (Class teacher) and Mrs Vickers (Class LSA)

