



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Wrens Class Newsletter Spring Term 2022



Happy New Year. We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and we welcome you back for the Spring Term.

Our Big Question for the first half of the term is: “What was life like in the past?”

To explore this concept our topic will be “castles and characters.” We will look at examples of different castles, explore how castles were made, who lived in them, the stories that surround them and day-to-day life inside them. We will be looking at a number of non-fiction texts and using them to find out more about castles.

Our Big Question for the second half of the term is: “How do we find out about the past?”

To explore this concept we have lots of exciting things planned around the theme of dinosaurs. We will find out about how dinosaurs lived in their environment, what they looked like and compare them to reptiles that can be seen in our time. We will become palaeontologists and dig for dinosaur bones in the sandpit. We will make up our own dinosaur combinations and create our own fossils using salt dough. There will be some messy activities the children are going to love with the creation of dinosaur swamps in the tuff trays. They will also have fun digging some frozen in time dinosaurs out from their eggs.

Literacy

Our focussed activities will continue to be based on different texts each week. During the first half of term we will be exploring traditional tales that involve castles- Jack and the Beanstalk, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella as well as books from the Sir Charlie Stinkysocks series and use these as a starting point for acting out the stories and for our writing opportunities.

During the term, we will be focussing on the genre of non-fiction books about castles and then dinosaurs during our literacy sessions, so if you are in your local library with your child, it would be good to take a look at the non-fiction section with them and see if they can find some information books about dinosaurs. In the second half of the term, we will also be using the Harry and the dinosaurs books for learning activities.

Maths

In Maths, we will be concentrating on counting, recognising numbers and ordering them to ten and beyond, whilst starting to develop our understanding of the composition of numbers to ten. We will also be sorting, matching and making repeating patterns using different resources and continue with finding one or two more or less from a given number, counting on and back from different numbers and naming and describing 2D and 3D shapes. We will also continue to work with coin recognition and solving simple problems using coins. Any reinforcement you could do with your child on this at home- letting them sort through a selection of coins or using different coins to pay for items when you are shopping would help them with this concept. We will begin to add groups and numbers together and partitioning sets of object and then moving on to comparing two weights, using direct comparison and relevant mathematical vocabulary of heavier and lighter etc. We will be using uniform non-standard units to measure the weights.

Understanding the World

Our RE focus for the first half term will be exploring the Jewish festival of Shabbat through our own experiences of a special meal. After half term, we will explore the question “Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden.”

Past and Present

From a history point of view we will be exploring the questions what were castles for and who lived in castles in the past? We will look at how life has changed over time and look at examples of heating to see how things have changed. We will also look at what a Monarch is and find out more about our Queen, which is especially significant in her Platinum year. When we learn about dinosaurs, we will look at how they lived and how people today know about them.

The Natural World

Our science focus for the term will be focusing on the materials used long ago and comparing the same buildings and objects to the present day and the reason for the choices of using such materials. We will link this with our Autumn learning about Houses and Homes. Our on-going focus on seasonal changes will be identifying the characteristics of winter weather and the changes that take place going into Spring. We will be recording the change in temperatures, observing the natural environment, suggesting seasonal changes that may have happened to a particular tree and how animals keep warm in the winter in order to survive. This will link to our ongoing Longitudinal study of ‘Changes in our environment over time’

Expressive Arts and Design

Creatively, we will be using different construction to build castles with- these will include lego, the outside construction and junk modelling materials. We will explore creating different textures to create dinosaurs with and explore work of the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo over the term.

We will also be contributing to our whole school Take One Picture art project, where we will be studying the painting ‘A Shipwreck in stormy seas’ by Claude-Joseph Vernet.

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.

Fairtrade Fortnight

During the term, we will be learning more about Fairtrade and joining in with “Fairtrade fortnight.” If you have any products at home that have the Fairtrade symbol on, it would be really helpful if your child could bring in the packaging with the label on as we will be looking at which countries the products come from. It would also be good if you are shopping with them to see how many different products they can spot the Fairtrade symbol on.

Phonics and Reading

Each week, the phonemes we will be learning in class will be put on Google Classroom - any reinforcement you can do with the words at home would be very beneficial and will help support your child in their early reading. The children will be reading with us in class three times a week with their focus Little Wandle book, which will continue to be assigned to them during the week for practice at home. In addition to this, the children can change their sharing book daily if they wish and will continue to choose a library book to take home each week too. Some children have so far completed their story wings. Badges will be awarded around the end of the first half term so please continue to explore the different genres of books with your child that are on the table in the front of their reading records and work through the activities with them in their records too as we would love to award as many badges as we can.

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs Michelle Cooke & Mrs Sarah Defferding

Class Teachers

Mrs Croombs

LSA