



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Puffins Year 1 Class Newsletter Spring term 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday. We had lots of fun learning in the Autumn term and the fun continues in Spring. Here is what we will be learning:

Spring 1 - Our big enquiry question is... Should plastic have ever been invented?

Spring 2 - Our big enquiry question is... How can we make the world a better place?

Much of our work will be topic-based with cross-curricular links to specific subject areas. This gives us the opportunity to plan topics of interest to the children as well as encouraging their interests to lead to further avenues of discovery and learning.

History

During Spring 1 our topic is **Toys**. We will:

- Ask questions and use different sources to answer
- Study artefacts by comparing similarities and differences
- Order toys by decade and describe their characteristic features to see how toys have changed overtime
- Label features of an old toy
- Debate whether plastic should have been invented

Geography

During Spring 2 our topic is **Weather and Seasons**. We will:

- Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK
- Collect data about the weather using measuring equipment.
- Explore how seasons and the weather impact us
- Identify weather characteristics of the UK's 4 nations
- Report on the weather by becoming a weather presenter using the Green Screen.

English

English is taught daily along with Phonics, Handwriting and Spelling sessions. Writing and Grammar is taught through a variety of styles linked to our History and Geography topics. This gives the children a range of exciting and purposeful writing opportunities. The children will be writing recounts, predictions, labels, reports, narratives, instructions, captions and toy fact files. When writing the children will learn how to apply elements of Grammar to their writing including:

- Prepositions (on, under, through, between, above, in)
- Irregular past tense verbs (was, went, were, broke, drove)
- Conjunctions (and, but, so)
- Plurals (follow spelling rule to adding 's' or 'es' to nouns. Eg, hats, glasses)
- Punctuation (. ! ?)

The children will develop their speaking and listening skills by reading their writing aloud to check it makes sense and make revisions, additions and changes where necessary.

Phonics and Group Reading

We have had great success in delivering the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme. It teaches synthetic phonics in a memorable way with a number of opportunities for the children to apply what they have learned. The children learn that letters go together to form graphemes which supports their early reading skills. Phonics is taught every morning and is then revisited through afternoon Group Reading sessions.

Our Group Reading books are specifically designed to match the taught graphemes. By revisiting the graphemes it gives children multiple opportunities every day to embed their learning. In Group Reading sessions the children are taught early reading skills including decoding, prosody and comprehension. Each group has a book that is appropriate to their stage of reading development. This means reading with 90% fluency (1:10 words decoded). Children have the same book throughout the week to enable them to develop confidence, fluency, accuracy, comprehension and enjoyment. Throughout the week each group has a mixture of adult supported reading and independent activities. Once children are assessed to be secure in Phonics, they will move to coloured book bands.

Home Reading

On Friday the children's Group Reading book is set for home reading to provide more opportunities for children to apply their learning and to share their learning with their family. Once children are assessed to be secure in Phonics, they will move to coloured book bands and their book will be sent home.

Sharing books:

The children can take home a sharing book from our book box in class. The children can change their sharing book as frequently as they wish. The children have time during morning registration to change their sharing book.

Library:

Our library day will remain on Monday, please ensure children have their library books in school.

The World of Words:

We know reading opens doors of inspiration to children and it is crucial for children to read widely. Reading involves all kinds of activities, anywhere you are! The world is full of words and it is difficult to think of somewhere without words. Please encourage your children to read books, maps, road signs, recipes, ingredients, instructions, shopping lists, TV subtitles and guides, newspapers, magazines, shop signs, the possibilities are endless!

Story Wings:

Please continue to fill in the front of your child's reading record and complete the activities so they can earn their Story Wings badge. Well done to those children who have already earned their Story Wings badge, please continue to read widely to develop a love for reading and earn your Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates.

Phonics Screening Check

In June all Year 1 children will participate in the Phonics Screening check set by the Government. This involves reading 40 words that contain the taught graphemes. The check is completed 1:1 with the class teacher. In previous years the pass mark has been 32/40, although this may change. Children who read under 32 words will retake the Phonics Screening Check in Year 2. I am hoping to hold a curriculum meeting in March to explain this in more detail and answer any questions you may have.

Mathematics

Mathematics is taught daily in progressive blocks. This means that the children will revisit and build upon their prior learning to deepen their understanding. Here is what the children will be learning this term:

- Number (place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions)

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Count to 50 then to 100, count in steps of 2, 5 and 10, partition 2-digit numbers, calculate using + - x and ÷, use number bonds to 20, solve a variety of word problems, find $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a number, recognise odd and even numbers

- Measurement

Use equipment to measure weight (kg), capacity (ml) and temperature (°C). We will use these skills to collect and analyse data about the weather, linking with our Geography topic. T

- Money

In a world where money is becoming less visible and we are more frequently using bank cards, it is important for children to understand the true purpose and value of money. We will explore how children can use, calculate, give change, save and appreciate money.

- Time

We will sequence events in chronological order using vocabulary such as yesterday, today, tomorrow. We will also sequence days of the week and months of the year. The children will develop an understanding of how long a minute, hour, day, week, month and year are. Using digital and analogue clocks the children will tell the time at o'clock and half past.

- Geometry - shape

The children will name, recognise and find the properties of 3D shapes including edges, vertices, faces and lines of symmetry. We will compare and sort 3D shapes according to their properties.

- Geometry – Position and Direction

The children will revisit whole and half turns. We will link turns with right and left hand turns and to clockwise and anti-clockwise.

Science

Our longitudinal study runs from September to July. Our focus is Seasons and associated weather patterns. The children will observe changes across the four seasons, measure rainfall, temperature and daylight hours and compare findings with each season. This gives children a first hand experience to develop their understanding of the world around us.

In Spring 1 our focus is **Materials and their Properties**. We will:

- Identify different materials
- Describe the properties of different materials
- Compare materials according to their properties
- Carry out an experiment to find the most waterproof material

In Spring 2 our focus is **Materials and Force**. We will:

- Identify, describe and compare materials and their properties
- Investigate how materials can be changed by physical force (twisting, bending, squashing and stretching)

Art

As part of our whole school Take One Picture project in liaison with the London National Art Gallery, the children will continue to create Artwork inspired by Claude-Joseph Vernet's 'A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas'. The children will also study a variety of inspiring and diverse Artists to develop their artistic experiences and skills.

Our focus is **The Texture of Toys** where we will be looking at the works by illustrator Don Freeman. This is linked with our History topic. We will:

- Learn about the work and history of Freeman (Corduroy)
- Understand how artists create texture
- Experiment with textural mark making techniques
- Create an observational drawing and painting of a Teddy

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DT

In DT lessons we will be looking at **Food Tech**. The children will look at traditional foods from around the world to link with Geography. We will:

- Understand where food comes from
- Understand the importance of a balanced diet
- Measure ingredients
- Design and make a flatbread pizza with healthy and locally sourced toppings

PE

Our PE days are Wednesday and Friday. Please can children bring their PE kits into school on Monday. PE kits will go home for washing on Friday. With the colder weather upon us please make sure your child has a pair of trainers and a jumper for PE outside. In Spring the children will be developing their skills in Gym (usually inside) and Games (usually outside).

In **Games** the children will:

- Follow rules within a game
- Master control in basic movements (running, jumping, throwing, kicking, batting, rolling, catching)
- Develop spatial awareness and awareness of others
- Apply taught skills in a game situation

In **Gym** the children will:

- Plan and perform a sequence of linked shapes (tuck, dish, arch, straddle)
- Use contrasting movements to link shapes in a sequence (direction, speed, level)
- Move with control and care

Computing

Computing is taught as a stand alone subject as well as across the curriculum to enhance and enrich learning. Our focus in Spring 1 is **Digital Writing** where the children will:

- Create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content
- Locate and use keys to type and edit
- Use tools on Word to edit text (font, size and colour)
- E-Safety focus: understand how to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private

Our focus in Spring 2 is **Data and Information** where the children will:

- Understand what data is and how it can be labelled, counted and grouped
- Record and compare data
- Ask and answer questions about data and share findings
- E-safety focus: recognise that not all information online can be trusted. Identify reliable and unreliable information and know how to ask for help

Religious Education

In class RE is taught to explore different religious perspectives and beliefs.

In Spring 1 our focus is **Christianity - Authority**. The children will:

- Share their own responses to authority figures
- Identify examples of ways in which people with authority affect theirs and others lives
- Understand the meaning of authority
- Describe events in Jesus' life which demonstrate authority
- Describe the importance of Jesus' authority to Christians

In Spring 2 our focus is **Christianity – Sadness to Happiness**. The children will:

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- Share their responses of sadness to happiness
- Identify journeys of sadness to happiness
- Create sadness to happiness concept lines for the Easter story
- Describe the importance of the Easter story to Christians

Languages

The children love learning about different cultures and languages. We answer the register in different languages and order our lunch in French by saying “vert/rouge s'il vous plaît”. In Spring the children will continue their French lessons and will learn how to:

- Ask and answer ‘how old are you?’
- Count to 20
- Have conversations about number

Personal, Social and Health Education

PSHE lessons are vital in nurturing children's holistic development, this is even more prevalent given the social experiences some children may have missed during the pandemic. We want all our children to be happy, healthy and communicative members of society. PSHE is not only taught as a stand alone lesson but in frequent daily discussions as and when opportunities to learn arise. Children's skills are nurtured everyday through reflective discussions, turn taking, teamwork, practising manners, practising resourcefulness and finding solutions to problems. We also have weekly PSHE lessons to explore and develop these skills further.

In PSHE lessons our focus will be **Health and Wellbeing**. The children will:

- Explore how to keep their bodies healthy
- Learn different strategies to manage feelings
- Understand the importance of personal hygiene
- Identify their private information and learn how to keep it safe
- Discover the process of growing, changing and becoming independent with age
- Know the correct names for the main body parts including external genitalia

Music

The children thoroughly enjoy music lessons. This term we will be studying a range of musical genres including classical, pop and rock. The children will explore how music influences our life and emotions.

In Music lessons our focus is **Rhythm in the way we walk**. The children will:

- Express their likes and dislikes about a piece of music and describe how it makes me feel
- Understand what rhythm is. Create and play their own simple rhythms using different instruments including voice
- Understand what pitch is. Play and change the pitch of different instruments
- Understand what tempo is. Play and change the tempo of their composition
- Create and perform their own compositions using rhythm, pitch and tempo

Home Learning - Friday to Friday

Home learning will remain to be set on Friday to be completed by the following Friday. Children will have zip close folders for home learning and spelling books. Home learning may include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Maths
- Topic based tasks

Our spelling test will remain on Friday. **Please ensure children have their spelling book in school.**

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Parent-Teacher Communication

I thoroughly enjoy working in partnership with parents and am aware that you all have your own experiences and skill sets which I would like to utilise! If you do a particular job, have a certain skill, experience or interest that links to any of our learning topics and would be happy to share this with the children then please contact me. It would be great to work together and I am sure the children would love to hear and learn from you.

I am always happy and free to answer general questions at the end of school. If you wish to discuss anything in more detail, please contact the office to book an appointment with me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. You have been incredibly supportive and I am looking forward to working with you this term!

Many thanks,

Miss Chandler Class Teacher
Mrs Mas/Mrs Croombs LSAs

Mrs Cooke will be teaching in Puffins class on Fridays and Miss Chandler will be in Monday – Thursday.

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