



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Robins Class Newsletter – Spring Term 2022



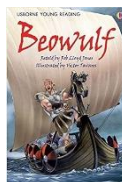
Wishing everybody a very Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to Spring term in Robins class.

I do hope a relaxing and well-deserved Christmas break was had by all. We have yet another exciting term lined up for Robins class with so many wonderful opportunities and projects for pupils to look forward to. Please read on to find out more about what we will be up to this term...

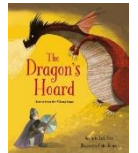
Our Big Question for the first half term: Were the Anglo-Saxons the ruin of Britain?

History - We begin this term by travelling back in time again, this time to the period of the Anglo-Saxons. During history lessons, pupils will begin by studying archaeological evidence at Sutton Hoo in order to learn how artefacts help us to learn about the past, in particular, 'who was buried at Sutton Hoo?' Through historical enquiry, pupils will explore the origins of the Anglo-Saxons. We will discover why there were tensions between the Scots, Picts and Anglo-Saxons and learn the motives behind the Anglo-Saxon decision to come to Britain- did they invade or did they settle? Through a range of activities, we will explore the everyday life of Anglo-Saxon Britain and compare this to our own and we shall investigate the evidence of Anglo-Saxon place names that still exist today. Pupils will then consider the factors that helped convert Britain to Christianity in order to then make a reasoned conclusion about whether in fact the Anglo-Saxons were the ruin of Britain.

Children's Book of
Mythical Beasts &
Magical Monsters



English- English lessons this term will link to our history topic, beginning with the wonderful book- Mythical Beasts and Magical Monsters. Through this engaging text, we shall explore the features of non-fiction texts and learn how to effectively describe mythical beasts so that when we design our own, we can describe them effectively for our reader using a wide range of vocabulary and interesting sentence structures for example. Then, building upon this, we will explore a summarised version of the well-known Anglo-Saxon myth of Beowulf as well as The Dragon's Hoard. Pupils will re-enact part of the stories using drama, explore inference through the thoughts and feelings of the characters involved before planning and writing our own Anglo-Saxon myth, of course featuring the beast we designed previously.



In addition to these writing focussed English lessons, pupils will continue to have regular spelling, handwriting, guided reading and grammar lessons throughout the week. Please continue to support reading and spelling at home as much as possible to further build upon what we are learning in class.



Science - Science lessons this half-term will explore digestion as we discover how the body transports nutrients via the blood. Through these lessons, we will identify and compare the diets of different animals and the role of the blood in transporting essential nutrients around the body. We will practically explore the very important role that teeth play in digestion and explore how to best look after our teeth through scientific experiments.



PSHE - lessons will build upon our science lessons, exploring other ways to keep our bodies healthy.

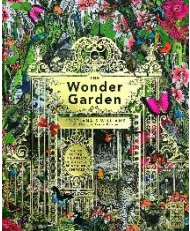
DT/Computing - DT lessons this half-term will have a food technology focus as we investigate how eating healthy meals contributes towards keeping fit and healthy. Pupils will explore the many different types of existing salad before designing their own for their family. Robins will be asked to conduct questionnaires at home about their family's food preferences before designing, creating and evaluating their own finished product. Then, pupils will create a radio advertisement for their new salad using Audacity software to edit audio.

Maths- In maths lessons this half-term, pupils will begin by learning their new times table facts. For Year 3, this will be the 8x tables (using their knowledge of doubling 4x tables) and for Year 4, we will move onto learning our 7 and 9 x tables. Pupils will then be shown how to multiply and divide numbers using a range of mental and written methods. After that, Robins class will be developing their knowledge of decimals and fractions. They will find fractions of amounts and quantities, recognise and show equivalent fractions and Year 4 will explore how to simplify fractions, too.

Our Big Question for the second half- term: What is the link between deforestation and climate change?

Geography/English- After half-term, Robins will be moving on to our rainforest topic. During this unit, pupils will learn how to identify the different biomes in the world. They will learn how to name and locate rainforests and distinguish relationships within that ecosystem. We will explore what life is like in the Amazons and how people live in that biome and compare the Amazon rainforest to the UK's deciduous forest biome. Towards the end of the topic, Robins class will inquire into how climate change is affecting the tropical rainforest biomes and deciduous forest biomes.

English lessons during the second- half term will build upon this geography knowledge, as we begin the unit by looking at The Great Kapok Tree. We will explore this text in a variety of ways, analysing the various arguments about deforestation posed by the animal viewpoints. We will then use these arguments as a starting point for a class debate on whether the main character in the story should continue felling the trees and what opposing arguments could be made against deforestation. The unit will conclude with children writing a persuasive or balanced argument about deforestation, considering its link to climate change and impact on the environment.



We will then explore the beautifully illustrated book, 'The Wonder Garden', in which we will be able to continue learning about the beauty of the Amazon Rainforest and work towards producing our own information text about the Amazon, focusing on a particular aspect that we have found most interesting during the topic.

Science- Linked to our study of the Amazon Rainforest and the animals that live within, our science lessons will have a focus on animals and the function of their skeletons in support, protection and movement of their bodies. Children will explore the role of muscles and how they work in pairs to move a bone and how joints connect bones. We will also continue with our longitudinal study- How might a change to the school grounds affect the plants and animals that live there?

Art- Art lessons after half-term will focus on the work of Georgia O'Keefe as we explore how to develop our observational drawing and photography skills to capture flowers and plants. We will investigate how to create digital paintings and use our collage skills of cutting, ripping and sticking to create group pieces of artwork.

School Trip

As part of this half term's topic, we hope to visit *The Living Rainforest* in the Newbury area on **Friday 18th March**. This will be a fantastic experience for the children as it will give them an insight into how life is different in rainforests compared to the forests in our local area. Furthermore, as part of the trip, the children will have a guided tour as well as time to explore the rainforest in supervised groups. More information about this trip will be sent out nearer the time.



Music- This term, we will continue to have Mr Jones (a music specialist teacher from the Hampshire HIAS music team) teaching Robins every Monday afternoon. I know pupils will continue to look forward to these lessons in which they will develop their ability to play instruments confidently, read musical notation and compose and perform different types of music.

R.E – In RE, Robins class will be exploring the concept of 'Messages' through Jesus' teachings before moving on to look at the concept of 'ritual' and what this may mean in Christianity and other religions with regards to prayer.

French- In French lessons this term, Robins will learn about Epiphany celebrations in France and they will continue to learn new vocabulary such as colours and days of the week in order to create their own mini-folding books in the style of 'Ours brun' and 'La chenille qui fait des trous'.

P.E – P.E lessons this term will take place on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** afternoon, however 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. PE lessons this term will include Dance, Gymnastics and Invasion games such as Hockey. In addition to the timetabled PE lessons, children will continue having the opportunity to complete their golden mile at other times during the week.

Swimming

This term, as part of the PE curriculum, Robins class will also be taking part in swimming lessons. These will happen every **Monday** after half-term (28th February onwards). More information about this will follow nearer to the time.



Home-learning-Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a **Monday**. This will include Times Table Rockstar challenges, My Maths activity, spelling practice and reading. Spellings will continue to be set and tested every **Monday**. 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. In Robins class, we are determined to try and get as many children as possible achieving their story wings badge this year so any encouragement you can give at home to support this would be appreciated. Please note all Story Wing badges will be handed out in a reading award ceremony on World Book Day.

If you have any questions or queries about either your child or their learning, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to sharing our learning with you throughout the term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hulme (Robins Class teacher/Assistant Headteacher) and Miss Byrne (Robins Class LSA)

Love Hope Justice

