



# Preston Candover CE Primary School

**Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE**

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**Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school. Last half term the children settled really well and it has been so lovely to have school running again as we all adapt to our new normal.

Our topic for this half term is "A world of rhyme" and we will also be looking at the beautiful season of autumn through our new big enquiry question "what does autumn feel like?" Through this we will be using all of our senses to explore what makes autumn autumn!

## Literacy

World Nursery Rhyme Week is fast approaching and we will be taking part in it. The initiative, which was launched in 2013, promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education with a particular focus on how nursery rhymes boost early language and literacy skills. We have a number of activities planned throughout the week around the 5 key nursery rhymes for this year which are – The wheels on the bus, 5 little speckled frogs, Hickory Dickory Dock, Old Macdonald and Miss Polly had a dolly. Singing nursery rhymes is a wonderful activity you can enjoy doing together at home and all of the resources are available for you to download. You can access all of the free resources at: [www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com](http://www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com). In addition to this, we will be using books by Julia Donaldson to further explore the concept of rhyme. These will include The Smartest Giant, Sugarlump and the Unicorn and The Singing Mermaid.

## Phonics

We will continue with our daily phonics work using the Song of Sounds programme. The children have very quickly learned the song and all the accompanying actions and are

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working on blending 2 and 3 sounds together to read words. We will continue to upload the focus sounds and words to Google classroom at beginning of each week. Any work that you could do at home with your child to reinforce these words would be beneficial, for example; sounding out the words, asking children if they can use the words in an oral sentence and starting to write the words.

## **Maths**

We will continue working with numbers, working on making the same totals in different ways and starting to record simple addition and subtraction number sentences. We will compare heights and lengths of objects and sequence objects according to their height or length. We will also introduce money- coin recognition and using coins in role play to pay for items. In shape we will be moving onto 3D shapes- naming them and talking about the characteristics of them.

## **Understanding the world**

In relation to our big enquiry question we will look at what happens to some animals in autumn and find out about the sorts of animals that hibernate over the winter. We will also talk about seasonal changes and become autumn detectives looking for signs of autumn in our environment.

We will explore magnetic and non- magnetic objects and towards Christmas develop our understanding of how a simple electrical circuit work by discussing the dangers of electricity- How is electricity useful to us and how we should take care around electricity? Using batteries, wires and bulbs we will explore making a complete electrical circuit and use this idea to light up a Christmas tree.

Our focus for our RE this term will be Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas? Through this we will also talk about our own personal Christmas traditions that we share at home and how these are different and similar.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Autumn lends itself to an exploration of colour and as well as looking at all the beautiful autumnal colours in our environment we will be using them to create our own pictures. Our creative activities will also link with our focus stories and we will for example create underwater scenes for mermaids when we look at The Singing Mermaid.

## **Children's Interests**

Through our curriculum we look at the interests of the children and look to develop learning opportunities through these. Last half term the children were really engaged with

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the outdoor construction and in particular creating different channels to pour water and roll conkers down which involved them in lots of problem solving and creative thinking opportunities. We will be engaging with them in their play to find out where their interests lie this half term.

## **Ways to help at home**

Here are some ideas for helping your child at home this half term.

- Share rhyming stories and songs and identify the words that rhyme in them
- Play an “I spy” rhyme version- eg “I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with cat.”
- Play a “countdown” type rhyme game where you say a word and give the child one minute to see how many words they can say that rhyme with it.

## **Storywings and reading**

Storywings is a whole school approach to promoting reading for pleasure and a way of really engaging children in their reading, encouraging them to try different authors and genres of reading and helping to instil a real love of reading. Once children have completed Storywings they will receive a special badge. These are a different colour for each year group and children love adding to their collection of them each year. The children all have a Storywings grid stuck in the front of their Reading record book, the idea is that at home they read from the different genres of books, record the book and author on the grid and also choose and complete one of the activities in their reading record books as a review of the book. They need to complete one activity for each book read. For Early Years and KS1 children- they need to read or share with an adult 3 books from 4 different genres over the year- these are fiction, non-fiction, traditional tales and poetry/rhyme. In total to earn their Storywings badge they need to have read 12 books and completed 12 of the activities in their reading record book. This is an activity for children to do at home to support their reading and the children can complete it at any time over the academic year. Once they have completed it they need to show us their reading record book and their name will be added to a display board in their class area and also on a whole school one in the library and they will receive their badge. We hope you will support your child in working towards their badge and we look forward to awarding them.

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We will be taking in the children's reading diaries at the end of this week- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November just to look through, they will then be returned the following week. We read with the children on an individual basis at school and each child is read with once during the week. We record notes on this in our class folder and not in their individual reading records but please be assured that the children are engaged with lots of reading activities during the week at school.

May we remind you to provide your child with a spare pair of jogging bottoms to change into, should they get damp during their outside learning, as we will be using the outside area as much as possible.

If you have any queries about our topic or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Michelle Cooke and Mrs Sarah Defferding

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