



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: 01256 389278

Email: admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Owls Class Newsletter – Spring Term 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring term, I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for my extremely thoughtful gifts and cards; I was overwhelmed with your kindness. Owls class had an amazing 2020 and I am really looking forward to 2021, as we embrace another exciting yet slightly different term than expected. This term will allow all children to show how hard-working they are but most importantly how much fun they have learning something new. I cannot wait to see their learning and most importantly them on Google Meets.

Our Big Question for the first half of the term is: 'Does technology change our lives for the better?'

First half- term Topic: Entertainment Revolution- I hope the children enjoyed learning about different decades in their Christmas home-learning. I am looking forward to seeing all they have learnt so far and displaying it in our classroom when they are back in school. Within this topic, we will be learning about the role of cinema in 20th century entertainment and how cinemas have changed over time. The children will develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, by discovering how and why football changed across the 20th century in Britain and throughout the world. They will explore how young people's lives were different in the 1960s compared with their own today. Owls class will address and devise historically valid questions about why the British holiday industry boomed from the 1930s onwards and understand why holiday camps became popular in Britain. All children will have a stronger understanding of how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources and that different versions of past events may exist, by learning about how television became a popular leisure activity. Finally, we will be exploring the impact of 20th century technologies on leisure and entertainment and discuss how technology affects our lives today. We will be presenting this in a variety of different ways such as: information leaflets, posters, presentations, role play, video conferencing, interviews, written reports, dance routines and designing our own top trump cards, football kits and album covers. This is a brand-new topic, that I cannot wait to explore with my class even if it is virtually!

Our Big Question for the second half of the term is: What if all the rivers on Earth stopped flowing?

Second half- term Topic: Rivers of the World-In this topic, all children will understand the nature of a river, how it changes on its journey from source to sea and that it has the power to erode and shape the landscape over time. They will learn geographical vocabulary and definitions associated with rivers, their features, and the water cycle. They will all learn the names of at least 10 major world rivers and the continents they flow through and begin to know some facts about major world rivers. We are deepening the children's love of nature further, by exploring the importance of estuaries to wildlife and nature reserves. The children will use this passion for the subject and knowledge to create an information brochure for visitors to a nature reserve that explains how mudflats and salt marshes are formed and the wildlife that inhabits them. All children will be able to use maps, atlases, and digital computer mapping to follow the journey of a river and record the place names it passes through. This topic will include Science, as the children will set up an evaporation experiment with freshwater and salt water.

Art-In Art this term, we will look closely at the River Thames series of painting by the French artist Claude Monet. We will learn some facts about the life and work of Claude Monet and use this to inspire our own art work. The children will have the opportunity use the 4 predominant colours to paint their own version of one of Monet's River Thames paintings. They will use their sketchbooks and acrylic paint to investigate the effect sunlight on water in the style of Monet. They will evaluate their work and that of others by considering how successfully the paintings have used light and colour to create an impression.

English- The children are now using tools to continue improving their writing and learning how to engage their audience, through their vocabulary choices. We will begin by reading fictional texts by the same illustrator. These texts are: Angry Arthur, In the Attic and Millie's Marvellous Hat. These texts will inspire Owls class to write their own class book of stories including different emotions. We aim to create this book for younger children in the school, to help them understand different emotions and give Owls class a real purpose for their writing. All texts chosen aim to inspire the children to write creatively yet, support them in using the correct spelling, grammar and punctuation that is needed to create an outstanding Year 2/3 piece of writing. We are encouraging all children to read their own writing aloud to a variety of audiences, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume, which in turn will support their comprehension. The next topic will be surrounding one of my favourite poems 'Please Mrs Butler' by Allan Ahlberg. All children will learn how to structure a poem, rhyme, write about real events, recording these simply and clearly (in poem form) and prepare poems to read aloud and perform continuing to build up a repertoire of poems learnt by heart. After half- term, we will be exploring two wonderful texts to go alongside our river topic, these are: The Magical Garden of Claude Monet by Laurence Anholt

and *The Wind in the Willows*, which I have a feeling the children will love. The children will learn how to write diaries, setting descriptions, letters and playscripts.

Maths – Children in Owls class will be we will be learning more about place value and solving calculations with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We will also be exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and begin to learn about angles and the perimeter of simple shapes. Other topics we will be looking at this term are: comparing fractions, ordering fractions, equivalents fractions, money, and time. Problem- solving will be at the heart of all Maths learning, with the opportunities to use the Mathematics resources regularly. Owls class will be able to use 'My Maths' and Times Tables Rock Stars for home-learning, which can be accessed from both home and school. By the end of Year 2, we aim for all children to know their 2, 5 and 10-times tables and by the end of year 3, children should also know their 3, 4 and 8-times tables. Please can you help your child practice these regularly at home and encourage them to use Times Tables Rock Stars.

Science - In Science lessons this term, we will be exploring solids, liquids, gases and solutions: mixtures and separating them. We will explore several different materials and classify them as solids, liquids and gases and decide what properties may suggest this. They will actively investigate the nature gases through a variety of hands-on experiments. All children will design and set up a fair test to find the factors that affect the rate of evaporation and condensation. After half- term, the children will be discovering all about rocks, fossils, and soils. They will group rocks in different ways, according to their observable features and understand how rocks are formed. They will be devising comparative tests for rocks and soils, making observations, recording, gathering evidence and evaluating their results. Finally, they will understand the process of fossil formation. They will discover the contribution to science of the great 19th century fossil hunter Mary Anning. To share what they have learnt, all children will be creating exhibits and activities for a virtual Science Museum.

DT- In DT, we hope to be preparing raw materials by: peeling, cutting, slicing, and grating. We will be discovering how to select appropriate skills and tools to prepare simple, balanced, healthy dishes safely & hygienically and recognise the different food groups. We will understand where food comes from either grown, farmed, or caught in Europe & the wider world.

Computing- During our first computing unit, all children will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects by using yes/no questions. Owls class will create physical and on-screen branching databases. Finally, they will evaluate the effectiveness of branching databases and will decide what types of data should be presented as a branching database. Our second unit allows all children to explore scratch in more depth. They will explore movement within the context of a maze, using design to choose an appropriately sized sprite. Learners are given the opportunity to draw lines with sprites and change the size and colour of lines. This unit will conclude with each child designing and coding their own maze tracing program.

Music- In Music this term, the children will be introduced to the composer Edvard Greig, they will discover more about this composer and explore music, which was written in 1875. The piece of music that we will be exploring further is "In the Hall of the Mountain King". For the second half of the term, all children will improvise a simple rhythm and hopefully be able to use different instruments including their voice and learn how to play certain notes on the glockenspiel. They will understand that the words in a song can affect its melody, that improvisation is when a composer makes up a tune within boundaries and composition is when a composer writes down and records a musical idea. By the end of the term, they will create their own composition and perform to an audience.

P.S.H.E and Citizenship- Owl's class will begin the term by learning what is meant by the term 'habit' and why habits can sometimes be hard to change. This will be followed by exploring different feelings and emotions people experience and how to help people to feel good. We will learn how to recognise and respond appropriately to a wider range of feelings and emotions in ourselves and others and learn how to manage these in different situations, learning that asking for help, advice and support is a positive thing to do. We will gather strategies to solve disputes and conflict amongst themselves and their peers if they ever arrive and resolve differences looking at alternatives, seeing and respecting others' points of view, making decisions, and explaining choices. We will help the children in recognising their own and other's skills, talents and interests and celebrating these, even if they are different. We will support children to keep safe online and in the real world. Finally, the children will learn what is meant by enterprise and begin to develop enterprise skills during our Fairtrade Fortnight events.

R.E – In RE, the first topic Owls Class will be looking at is: Jesus- 'Miracles through the concept of faith'. They will begin by describing in their own words, what faith means to them and how the concept of faith is contextualised in Christianity. All children will evaluate the value of Christians experiences of the symbol of miracles and from this, describe their own responses to the idea of miracles and how they apply to their own lives. The second topic they will be exploring is: How the orthodox celebrate Easter through concept of symbol. They will be discovering what a symbol is and the importance of



Orthodox symbols of Easter. They will end this term by writing prayers linked to their learning and Easter.

French- All children have thoroughly enjoyed learning a new language and will continue to engage in conversation and developing appropriate pronunciation. They will be reading, writing, and recognising vocabulary linked to the months of the year, numbers up to 31, Birthdays and festivals, such as Mardi gras and French Easter traditions comparing them to our own. We cannot wait to see their confidence grow in this subject.

P.E- After half- term, Owls class will begin with gymnastics, exploring ways of changing levels and jumping, as they travel and incorporate changes of level into sequences. All children will describe the difference in how their body feels and what muscles are being worked during different types of exercise. They will learn how to balance and combine actions with their partners to make a sequence that will be performed to an audience virtually. Throughout this term, Owls class will enjoy the outside PE lessons on the field, so please make sure they have a warm PE kit. They will be developing fundamental skills such as: special awareness, travelling whilst changing direction, dribbling, ball control, scoring in a goal and working as a team.

Lunch and Break Times- When all the children are back in school we will be using the classrooms to eat lunch with their teacher. Tables will be wiped down before and afterwards. Children will then have an outside break with their bubble group. We are strictly a nut free school so please do not send in any nuts or nut products. We do have children with severe nut allergies in the class.

Home- learning- When we return, the children will continue home- learning, which will be: daily reading, weekly spellings, Timetable Rockstars, a weekly My Maths activity and a weekly English task. All homework will remain online. Homework will be set on Google Classroom every Friday to be completed and uploaded by the following Friday. Throughout the year, we will be setting some topic home- learning to match with the learning they are doing in class. All children will be given enough time to complete this.

Home Reading Books- Each class will have their own set of reading books. Please continue to support your children with reading at home, try to hear them read regularly (recording in their reading records) and encourage your child to complete a learning tool in their reading record, so that they are one step closer to achieving their story wings badge. Well done to the children that have already completed their story wings, please continue to complete the rest of the learning tools for extra rewards. Your child can read poetry, fiction, non-fiction, comics, newspapers – so that they are reading for pleasure and enjoyment! Please prompt your child with questions when they are reading. These can be found in most school scheme books at the front or back or the reading guidance on Google Classroom. When we return, reading scheme book changes will take place on a Monday and Friday. The children will place their books into a quarantine box where they will be left for 72 hours before being shelved. We have effective methods for assessing reading. Children will move reading levels once they have securely met all requirements within that level. Please use SLS library service during this lockdown period, to assist your child's reading.

Equipment- When we return, children must not bring any toys into school. Your child will need a named PE kit in school from Monday to Friday, please ensure if it gets taken home to be washed over the weekend that it is back in school on Monday. We also ask that all children bring a small named pencil case that can be wiped down. They should have a pencil, sharpener, rubber, ruler, basic set of colouring pencils and a glue stick. Finally, due to the colder weather, we ask that your children could bring in: wellington boots, coats, gloves, scarves, etc in a named plastic bag. This will ensure all children are warm, dry and a little less muddy, as we continue to enjoy using our school field at playtimes and lunchtimes.

Additional Information- Please make sure you read any Newsletters from Mrs Otway to keep up to date with events in school.

If you wish to discuss anything about this term, then please do not hesitate to contact me through emailing the school office.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning.

Yours sincerely, Miss D. Brown (Owls Class teacher) and Mrs V. Mas (Owls Class LSA)



