



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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

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Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

September 2022

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed making some lovely memories. Welcome to the Wrens class and the start of a new, exciting academic year. The class will be taught by Mrs Fowlds on a Monday and Mrs Cooke from Tuesday to Friday. We will also have LSA support throughout the week and together our main priorities for this term will be settling your child into the school routine, getting to know them and providing a happy, smooth transition from home to school in order to create a positive attitude towards learning.

### **Our Big Question for the first half of the term is: “I wonder what makes me me?”**

To explore this concept we will talk about how we have changed since birth and it would be helpful if you could send a photo of your child as a baby together with a fairly recent photo so that we can make comparisons and see if we can tell who is who from the baby photo. We will see if children can match the baby to the child. All photos will be returned to you after half term, when our topic will change.

We would also like to find out about the places we went to on holiday this year. We would therefore appreciate a postcard or photograph of somewhere you have visited or spent a day out at during the holidays.

### **Our Big Question for the second half of the term is: “I wonder where people live?”**

To help us with this topic - after the half term break we would be grateful if you could send in a photograph of the front of your house. Over the course of this half term we plan to go a village walk to look at the different types of houses we can find in Preston Candover. We will look at the different types of materials they are made from too. We will also explore some of the different styles of homes around the world.

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## Literacy

Our focussed activities will be based on different texts each week. During the first half of term we will be using stories such as “Stickman” by Julia Donaldson and then create our own stick families using sticks we collect around our school grounds. We will use “Kipper’s Toybox” to talk about our special and favourite toys, and “Owl Babies” by Martin Waddell to storymap and retell the story in our own words.

In the second half of the term we will be join in with the “World Nursery Rhyme week” with their rhyme a day challenge. As part of our topic we will be looking at non-fiction texts and talking about the characteristics of non-fiction books. We shall also carry out lots of drama and creative work around the traditional stories ‘The Three Little Pigs’ ‘Town Mouse and Country Mouse’ and ‘Goldilocks as well as exploring poetry using Michael Rosen’s poem “Our house.”

## Maths

In maths we will be sorting using different objects- looking at matching the same and comparing what is different. We will explore repeating patterns and use different resources to copy, continue and create our own repeating patterns. We will also focus on numbers first to 5- to develop a deep understanding of how they can be made up, how we can represent them and how we can subitise - being able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting. We will also explore 2D shapes and positional language over the term.

## Understanding the World

For Religious Education, our focus will be “Belonging” in the first half term. We will explore ways that we are the same but also how we are all different and unique. We will think about all the things that “make me me” and create a collage to show this. We will then think about what makes someone a Christian and explore some of the things a Christian might do- such as go to church and read stories from the Bible.

After half term we will be exploring the concept of celebration and celebrating the birth of Jesus. We will also explore the question “Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?” to develop our understanding of the Christmas story.

## Past and Present

During the first half of term we will explore about how things change over time and develop a sense of our personal history. We will create our own personal timelines of events in our lives so far. We will also use the story of Dogger -to discuss experiences that might be familiar to the children such as losing a toy/going to a school fair and use the illustrations as an interpretation of life in the 1970s to talk about how they compare with life today- how are things similar/ different?

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After half term we will use the story “Peepo” as a showcase for life in the past and explore homes in the past. We will talk about how have things changed over time and comparing old and modern day household objects. Linking with National Nursery Rhyme week we will use the rhymes “Polly put the kettle on” and “Mary had a little lamb” to further explore how things have changed over time and how things used to be in the past. For example we will look at why Polly had to put the kettle on and not just switch it on or use a coffee machine like some people do today.

## **The Natural World**

Our science focus for the first half of term will be about our bodies, concentrating on our skeleton, naming the different parts of our body and how we use our amazing body in day to day life and what we can do with it. We will use books from the “Funnybones” series to explore how we have a skeleton and look at how these are made up. We will also incorporate this focus with art work within the classroom, creating our own skeleton pictures.

After half term we will look at homes from around the world and make comparisons between them. We will find out about the various materials that can be used to build houses and think about why some houses have a flat roof whilst others are pitched. We will be using the story of the 3 Little Pigs to carry out investigations about the strength of the materials the pigs used to build their homes.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Creatively we will develop the art skills of drawing, painting, collage, sculpture and printing using different materials and media. We will draw and paint pictures of ourselves and look at Van Gogh’s self- portrait. After half term we will look at another piece of art by Van Gogh- the bedroom and draw/paint pictures of our own bedrooms.

We will also be looking at the environment around us and making observational drawings of the things we notice around our school grounds and the houses we can see from our outside area. In particular we will look at the beautiful tree outside our classroom and how it changes over the seasons, recording the changes through observational drawings.

After half term we will look at all the lovely autumnal colours and explore colour mixing to print autumn leaf collages using the colours we create.

Our provision will also include lots of opportunities for transient art- using loose parts and natural objects we find to create sculptures and pieces of art such as the Stickman family and Owl Babies.

## **Physical development**

We have 2 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

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for washing. They need a pair of trainers as part of their kit as we also use them for the Golden Mile which we will do throughout the week as well as in PE sessions.

### **Baseline Assessment**

The Reception Baseline Assessment is a statutory national assessment that will be administered to all children in Reception classes in their first 6 weeks of starting school. The aim is to provide a snapshot of where children are in their learning on entry to reception and will establish a starting point to measure the progress they have made by the end of Year 6.

The assessment itself is a short practical assessment which will focus on the children's early literacy, communication, language and maths skills and will be carried out with each child on a one to one basis as part of our usual in class provision. The tasks are similar to our usual on entry provision and will help us to get to know the children and understand what they can do so that we can get to know them and build upon their learning.

### **Tapestry**

Tapestry accounts have now been transferred or created and are being set up for all the children. You should soon receive an email notification in order to be able to access it. If you have not received this then please let us know through the school admin address ([admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk)) so that we can help. Tapestry is a way of sharing with you the learning the children have been doing in school and can also be used by parents to share any learning with us too- such as something they have done at home that they are proud of or photos from something relating to our learning in class for example.

### **Google Classroom**

The children will all be set up with a Google Classroom account- details of this will be sent out shortly. This is where we will post the phonics we will be focussing on each week and any home learning activities.

### **Reading and Phonics**

Last year we invested in a new phonic scheme called Little Wandle letter and sounds revised. You will receive a separate letter explaining more about this and how it works in practice. The children will always have access to sharing books from our class book box which they can change and bring home to share with you- these will be changed on a Tuesday. They will also have a session once a week where we will go to the school library and choose a book to take home as well as new books for our class reading area. Our library day will be Friday.

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We are very much looking forward to an exciting term of fun activities and would like to thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact us- via the admin email account - if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Michelle Cooke and Mrs Lee Ann Fowlds (Class teachers)

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