



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Robins Year 4 and Year 5 Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2020**

Welcome back! We hope that you all have had a lovely, relaxing summer holiday and are feeling refreshed and ready for the busy autumn term ahead.

### **English**

This term in English, the children will be following the 'Step Up to Catch Up' 12 week scheme. This will include starting with the book 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister and 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward. These books will provide a fantastic stimulus for the children to write character and setting descriptions, along with writing a letter and a first person narrative from the perspective of the main character, considering what that character would say and why. These books will also give them a bank of rich language to draw upon to help develop their descriptive writing further through the art of poetry.

We will then move on to studying 'The Spider Diaries' by Steve Parker and 'Black Dog' by Levi Penfold. During this learning journey, we will continue to develop our knowledge of descriptive writing, specifically looking at how to write a diary extract in the form of first person, using noun phrases expanded by modifying adjectives, nouns and prepositions. The children will end this term by writing a character description at different stages of the book, noticing how viewpoints change and why. By this stage, the children will be able to notice how their writing has improved through the use of a varied and rich vocabulary. We encourage the children in Robins class to express themselves through creativity and imagination throughout their work.

As a whole class we will be reading 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo.

Please also continue to hear your child read at home; it is an opportunity to enjoy stories together, discuss new words and ask questions about character and plot. Please make sure your child's book and reading record are in school every day.

### **Maths**

In Maths this term we will be following the 'Maths Catch Up Plans'. This will include developing our knowledge of number and place value using increasingly large numbers by being able to identify and represent numbers using different representations. We will look at building upon our mental strategies for calculation as well as developing our fluency in counting in different multiples. Our rounding skills will be built upon, along with estimating using inverse operations to check answers. We will then introduce some

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formal written methods and explore effective strategies for all four operations. The children will then have the opportunity to apply all of this learning to solve mathematical problems through two-step problems in context, deciding which operations and methods to use and why.

## Science

In science this term, the children will be studying 'feeding relationships and the environment' and 'life cycles'. Each child will take on the role of natural scientists who need to classify a variety of different minibeasts. We will explore different creatures around the world, looking at their habitats and the variety of food chains that exist. We will focus on three specific habitats in depth; the rainforest, the oceans and the polar regions. The children will have the chance to undertake experiments to investigate the effects global warming and human activity have on different habitats by looking at how climate change causes coral 'bleaching'.

After half term we will look at different types of human teeth and their functions, where the children will plan and carry out an investigation on tooth decay. This will lead onto exploring the simple functions of the human digestive system by recreating the digestive system and how all of the organs work together, starting with the teeth.

Lastly, we will be learning about the life cycles of a variety of organisms, looking more closely at some amphibians, birds and insects, understanding how each stage enables the organism to survive into adulthood. Whether plants and organisms reproduce asexually or sexually will also be covered during this topic.

Our longitudinal study this term will involve examining how the habitat and types of plants and animals living around a tree varies throughout the seasons.

## History

We will be learning all about The Anglo-Saxons this term and deciding for ourselves whether or not we would have liked to live during this period. Our big enquiry question '**were the Anglo-Saxons the ruin of Britain?**' will help us to think about the changes they brought to Britain and how these changes have shaped Britain today.

## Art

In Art this term we will be learning about the artist Albrecht De Vriendt and his style of work. The children will research Anglo-Saxon shields, including the variety of patterns/designs and the meanings behind these. Using our inspiration from Vriendt's work, the children will then create their own Anglo-Saxon shields, thinking carefully about the design.

## Design and Technology

In Design and Technology this term we will be conducting some research on storage containers, exploring different designs, features and materials/fabrics used. We will learn how to sew a variety of different stitches and to measure accurately before creating our own storage container for an item of our choice. We will then

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test our designs to see if they are ‘fit for purpose’ before evaluating our own work and giving feedback to our peers.

## **ICT**

Our ICT this term will involve learning about being safe online, knowing when things don’t feel right and when to tell an adult. We will also begin to understand how digital images can be changed and edited, along with how to evaluate the impact edited images can have.

## **Religious Education (RE)**

In RE this term we will be learning about the Hindu festival of Janamashtami and the belief of Avatar’s. As we draw closer to Christmas, we will be learning about the festival’s Christian symbolism through the Christmas story which will include a visit to St Mary’s church.

## **French**

We will understand how to say simple phrases and greetings, and engage in conversations about birthdays, animals, family members and pets and be able to describe various parts of the body including colours and adjectives. Learning how to ask simple questions will also be covered this term. As we approach Christmas we will learn French vocabulary and Christmas traditions in France.

## **Physical Education (PE)**

In PE this term, we will be taking part in two sessions per week, starting off with invasion games in the style of netball and dance (Anglo-Saxons). Throughout the second half term we will continue to take part in invasion games in the style of netball during one of our sessions, whilst the other session will change to Gym. 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.

## **Music**

In music this term, all children will be developing an understanding of the history and context of music through our topic ‘Don’t Stop Believin’. All children will appreciate a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music from different traditions and from great composers and musicians. A main focus in Music this term will be to sing as part of an ensemble with confidence and precision, in the lead up to our Christmas performance.

## **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

We will be starting this term looking at how we can keep ourselves safe in both the local environment and online. We will work together to develop strategies for keeping physically and emotionally safe and learn about how to lead a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

## **Homework**

### **Maths**

A 'Mymaths' and ‘Timestable Rockstars’, or written task will be set each week which will need to be completed by the following Thursday.

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If your child has misplaced their log ins, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will be more than happy to print off a new one for them.

Children will also be tested on their times tables every Friday, so please help your child practise them at home to help build their fluency and recall.

### **Reading Comprehension/Grammar**

This will be set on alternate Thursdays, to be handed in the following Thursday.

### **Spellings**

These will be set on Thursday to be tested on the following Thursday.

### **Reading Records**

These will be checked during guided reading sessions, so please can you ensure that your child has their reading record with them each day at school.

If you have any queries or concerns at any point during your child's time in Robin class, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

**PLEASE REFRAIN FROM BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE ANY COVID RELATED SYMPTONS. Many thanks.**

### **Drop off and Collection**

	<b>Drop off time</b>	<b>Drop off location</b>	<b>Collection time</b>	<b>Collection location</b>
<b>Robins</b>	8:35 – 8.45	School drive (please follow the one-way system)	3:00	Field/vehicle gate (please follow the one-way system)
<b>Bus children</b>	8:45 - 8:50	As usual	3:05 - 3:10	As usual

Many thanks

Miss McPhee and Miss Byrne

(Robin Class Teacher and Learning Support Assistant)

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