



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: 01256 389278

Email: admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to what promises to be another very exciting year here in Robins Class! I am very much looking forward to getting to know our new lovely Year 3 pupils and of course, continuing to support our wonderful Year 4 pupils for another year.



Here is the first of our termly curriculum newsletters to let you know what the children will be learning during Autumn Term.

Our Big Question for the first half term: How is our reality affected by perspective?

Geography- We begin this term with our Geography unit, which involves a study of our local area. Pupils will firstly identify where in the world Europe and the UK are in relation to the other continents and oceans. They will then use a range of maps and geographical tools to explore some of the key human and physical features of our country, to include the land use in our local area. Pupils will conduct fieldwork to explore the qualities of our local area to decide where different groups of people may be best suited to live. They will then identify a local issue and consider how to address that issue effectively with the community. This unit is sure to equip pupils with a greater level of respect and appreciation for the world around us.



English- English lessons this term are based upon the children's classic story of Alice in Wonderland. Through a variety of different drama activities, children will explore both the story and the characters in great detail as they learn to infer how characters may be feeling at certain points and clarify parts of the story through story maps. Pupils will compare the story to other narratives and identify the grammatical features used by different authors so that they can adopt similar techniques in their own writing. Pupils will then plan, draft and edit their own version of a portal narrative where Alice is transported to an imaginary world of their design. We will then explore nonsense poetry and again, have a go at writing and performing our own to other classes.

Art- Linked to our big enquiry question and English learning journey, our art unit this week focuses on the artist Salvador Dali and surrealism. Pupils will learn a little about the artist and explore different examples of his work in order to identify features typical of this type of art. They will then imitate his style and use their own imaginations to have a go at drawing and painting in a similar style before working towards creating a final art print that uses all the skills and techniques learnt throughout the term. This unit is always so much fun and I know the children will be super keen to show you what they have produced as they allow their imaginations take over!



Salvador Dali: *The Persistence of Memory*

Our Big Question for the second half- term: Do Actions Always Speak Louder Than Words?



History- During the second half-term, Robins class will be travelling back in time to visit the Romans! We will build upon the knowledge that some of the Year 4 pupils may have about Pompeii from their learning in KS1 but focus more upon the Roman Empire's impact on Britain. Through acting like historians and using a range of different artefacts and sources, pupils will develop an understanding of the size and spread of the Roman Empire, learn what Romanization was and how it affected different people in Britain and identify some of the short-term aspects of the Roman Impact. Pupils will understand why the Romans are considered as significant, how their invasion created some changes whilst other things stayed the same and how to ask perceptive question like a true historian! As part of this topic, Robins class will taking part in a Roman Workshop- more details on this to come!

DT – Linked to our topic about the Romans, DT lessons during the second half-term will see pupils design, create and evaluate a Roman chariot. Robins class will develop their knowledge of how to construct strong, stiff structures, using the nets of cubes and cuboids. Throughout this project, children will learn about how to design a product that is fit for purpose and suitable for the design requirements and use a range of tools and equipment.



Maths – Maths lessons this term will see Robins class developing a secure place value knowledge of 3 digit numbers for pupils in Year 3 and 4 digit numbers for those in Year 4. Children will learn how to compare and order these numbers accurately on a numberline and interpret numbers accurately within the context of money. We will then move on to explore mental methods of addition and subtraction with 2 and 3 digit numbers before exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Year 3 pupils will explore symmetry whilst Year 4 pupils will learn how to use compasses to draw circles of a given radii.

We will continue to learn and practise our times table facts throughout this term with the aim of ensuring pupils can quickly recall all times table facts (Up to 12x) by the end of Year 4. Robins class will be able to use Times Tables Rock Stars at home to help practise these facts, alongside 'My Maths', which can be accessed from both home and school. I would also recommend 'Hit the Button' which is another great online game to practise multiplication facts!

Science - Science lessons this term will be based on the topic of magnets. Throughout this unit, pupils will learn how magnets exert attractive and repulsive forces on each other. They will learn how non-contact forces can work through some materials. Pupils will investigate how magnetic forces are affected by magnetic strength, the mass of the object being attracted and the distance between the magnet and the object. After half-term, we will move on to looking at Solids, Liquids and Gases. We will also be completing our longitudinal study throughout the year on an aspect of the children's choosing.

Computing- During computing lessons this term, pupils will develop their understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs. They will also compare digital and non-digital devices. Pupils will be introduced to computer networks, including devices that make up a network's infrastructure, such as wireless access points and switches and discover the benefits of connecting devices in a network.

Music- This term, we are incredibly lucky to have Mr Jones, a music specialist teacher from the Hampshire HIAS music team, who shall be teaching Robins every Monday afternoon. We are all very much looking forward to these music lessons in which we will develop our ability to play instruments confidently, read musical notation and compose and perform different types of music.

P.S.H.E and Citizenship- *What strengths, skills and interests do we have? How can we be a good friend?*

Robins class will begin this term by learning how to recognise personal qualities and individuality. We will reinforce the importance of developing self-worth by encouraging pupils to identify their strengths, talents and achievements and how these link to our self- esteem. Crucially, we will discuss how to manage when there are set backs, including how to learn from mistakes and reframe unhelpful thinking. We will then move on to exploring friendships in Autumn 2 where we will cover how to recognise if others are feeling lonely, strategies to include them, how to build good, healthy friendships and overcome friendship difficulties as they occur.

R.E – In Religious Education lessons this term, we will be exploring the concept of 'temptation' in a unit based on making choices. During this unit, children will explore what temptation means through practical and relatable examples. They will then explore what temptation means to Christians in relation to a number of different stories from the bible. After half-term pupils will explore the concept of 'Holy' in relation to Mary, Mother of God and her importance to Christians.

French- In French lessons this year, Robins class will continue to be taught by Mrs Akindele on a Thursday morning. This half-term, Robins will explore the position of France within the French-speaking world through map work, revisit some simple key questions and responses (name, feelings, where they live and their age) and will be introduced to numbers 12-31.

P.E – P.E lessons this term will usually take place on a **Tuesday** and **Friday** 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 or swap PE lessons for various reasons. PE lessons this term will include Gymnastics, Dance and Invasion games such as Netball. In addition to the timetabled PE lessons, children will continue having the opportunity to complete their golden mile at other times during the week.

Home-learning- Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a **Monday and due in the following Monday**. We are going to continue with setting homework on Google Classroom one week and a paper based task in homework books for the second week. This ensures pupils receive the opportunity to practise handwriting and spellings in a book at home some of the time. Tasks will be set on objectives covered within the classroom but please do encourage your child to discuss their homework with me before the deadline if they are finding it tricky- I am more than happy to provide an additional example or talk through the first question to get them started!

Topic home-learning will be set when appropriate, with plenty of time to carry out the task. Spellings will 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.

Robins Celebration of Learning

We would love to invite you into school on the morning of **Friday 25th November** to help us celebrate the learning of Robins class. Pupils will be able to share their books with you and talk to you about some of the pieces of learning they are particularly proud of.

If you have any questions or queries about either your child or their learning, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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

