



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

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Wrens class



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and we welcome you back for the Spring Term.

Our Big Question for the first half of the term is: “I wonder what life was like in the past?”

Last term we really enjoyed exploring objects from houses in the past and finding out how everyday household objects such as kettles and hoovers have changed over time. This half term we will build on this by going further back into the past.

Our first topic will be “castles and characters.” We will look at examples of different castles, explore how castles were made, who lived in them, the myths and stories that surround them and day to day life inside them. We will be looking at a range of non-fiction texts and using them to find out more about castles.

Our Big Question for the second half of the term is: “I wonder what evidence from the past can tell us about the history of our planet?”

To explore this concept we have lots of exciting things planned around the popular topic of dinosaurs. We will find out about how dinosaurs lived in their environment, what they looked like and compare them to reptiles that can be seen in our time. We will become palaeontologists and dig for dinosaur bones in the sandpit. We will make up our own dinosaur combinations and create our own fossils using salt dough. There will be some messy activities the children are going to love with the creation of dinosaur swamps in the tuff trays. During the cold weather last term we had fun using the ice formed to build mini igloos so later this term we will enjoy freeing some frozen in time dinosaurs out from their eggs.

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Literacy

Our focussed activities will continue to be based on different texts each week. During the first half of term we will be exploring tales that involve castles- Jack and the Beanstalk, the Paperbag Princess and The Reluctant Dragon and use these as a starting point for acting out the stories and for our writing opportunities.

Over the term we will be focussing on the genre of non-fiction books about castles and then dinosaurs during our literacy sessions, so if you are in your local library with your child it would be good to take a look at the non-fiction section with them and see if they can find some information books about castles or dinosaurs. They can also then count towards the storywings badge. In the second half of the term we will also be using the lovely Harry and the dinosaurs books for learning activities.

Maths

In maths we will be concentrating on counting, recognising numbers and ordering them to 10 and beyond and start to develop our understanding of the composition of numbers to 10. We will also be sorting, matching and making repeating patterns using different resources. We will continue with finding one and two more and less from a given number, counting on and back from different numbers and naming and describing 2D and 3D shapes. We will also be beginning to add groups and numbers together and partitioning sets of objects, then moving on to simple subtraction over the term.

Understanding the World

Our RE focus for the first half term will be exploring the Jewish festival of Shabbat through our own experiences of a special meal. After half term we will explore the question “Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden.”

Past and Present

From a history point of view we will be exploring the questions what were castles for and who lived in castles in the past? We will look at how life has changed over time and look at examples of heating to see how things have changed. We will also look at castles we might know about- such as Windsor Castle. When we learn about dinosaurs we will look at how they lived and how people today know about them. We will find out about Mary Anning and about why she is an important historical figure.

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The Natural World

Our science focus for the term will be focusing on the features of castles such as the moat, drawbridge and portcullis. We will work together on a challenge to see if we can make a king and queen cross the moat to their castle safely by building a drawbridge for them. Our on-going focus on seasonal changes will be identifying the characteristics of winter weather and the changes that take place going into Spring. Each month we take a class photo by the tree outside of our classroom and look at how it has changed from the previous month so we will continue to observe what happens to it over this term.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creatively we will be using different construction to build castles with- these will include lego, the outside construction and junk modelling materials. If you have any cereal boxes or kitchen roll tubes please can you send them in for us as we will make our own junk model castles complete with a drawbridge. Over the term we will explore the artist Paul Klee- looking at his “Castles and Sun” work and use triangles and rectangles to create our own picture in his style.

Physical development

We will continue to 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 for washing. They need a pair of trainers as part of their kit as we for the Golden Mile or any outdoor PE sessions.

Fairtrade Fortnight

During the term we will be learning more about Fairtrade and joining in with “Fairtrade fortnight.” If you have any products at home that have the Fairtrade symbol on it would be really helpful if your child could bring in the packaging with the label on as we will be looking at which countries the products come from. It would also be good if you are shopping with them to see how many different products they can spot the Fairtrade symbol on.

Phonics and Reading

Each week we will continue to add the phonemes we will be learning in class on Google Classroom- any reinforcement you can do with the words at home would be very beneficial and will help support your child in their early reading. The children will be assigned their Little Wandle Ebook at the end of the week following the 3 reads we do in class. Please can you read this through with them over the weekend for reinforcement and record this in their green reading record each week. In addition to this the children can change their sharing book independently daily if they wish and will continue to choose a library book to take home each week too. Some

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children have so far completed their story wings. Badges will be awarded around the end of the first half term so please continue to explore the different genres of books with your child that are on the table in the front of their reading records and work through the activities with them in their records too as we would love to award as many badges as we can.

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 Cooke and Mrs Fowlds (Class teachers) & Mrs Mas (LSA)

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