



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Robins class

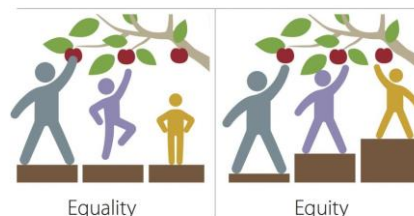
Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing everybody a very Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to Spring term in Robins class. I do hope a relaxing and well-deserved Christmas break was had by all. We have yet another exciting term lined up for Robins class with so many wonderful opportunities and projects for pupils to look forward to. Please read on to find out more about what we will be up to this term...



Our Big Enquiry Question for the first half term: What is the difference between fairness, equality and equity?

Geography- We begin this term with our Geography unit, which involves an economic study of the Ivory Coast. Through this, we will identify where in the world Africa and the Ivory Coast is and will use its geographical features to describe what it is like. Pupils will learn what connects us to the Ivory Coast and identify where cocoa is grown, who grows it and how chocolate gets from the Ivory Coast to the UK. Pupils will develop an understanding about what it is like in a chocolate factory and therefore answer the question 'what is unique about chocolate?' This topic naturally links to 'Fairtrade fortnight' which will take place later in the term and as such pupils will begin to learn about some of the issues regarding fairness, equity and equality within chocolate production.

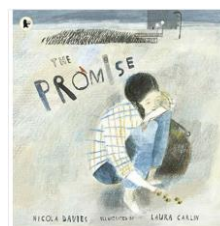


English/PSHE- English lessons this term will link with our geography learning as we begin by reading the text 'Earth Heroes'. This wonderful book features 20 inspiring stories about real people saving the world. We will focus on the stories of Greta Thunberg and Mohammed Rezwan and are sure to be inspired about advocating change and protecting the world in which we live. This is our PSHE focus for this half-term too as we learn how our choices can make a difference to others and the environment. Throughout this unit of work, pupils will learn how to write a short news report about an element of climate change.

Robins class will then move on to looking at 'The Promise', Nicola Davis. This is another well-written and beautifully illustrated picture book about hope and the power we have to transform our world. Throughout this English unit, pupils will consider whether it is ever right to steal and prepare to justify their reasons through detailed explanation. They will write a letter in role as a character from the story before concluding the unit by writing a contrast poem.

Throughout Spring Term, Year 3 will focus on using paragraphs more consistently to organise ideas as well as apostrophes and commas in lists. Year 4 will begin to look at how to link paragraphs effectively in writing to improve the flow of writing to include using fronted adverbials and commas accurately.

We will all continue to work hard on our spellings and handwriting regularly throughout the week.



Henri Rousseau

Art- Linked to the topic of environmental change and sustainability, our Artist for this term is Henri Rousseau. Pupils will learn a little about the artist and explore different examples of his work in order to identify features typical of his art. In particular, pupils will explore how to use texture and colour to create a mood that contrasts his- the result of human activity on the Earth. Pupils will first create a collage and then build on this by designing and creating an applique scene that links to an illustration from 'The Promise' text studied in English.



Illustration from 'The Promise'



Science - In Science lessons this term, pupils will study states of matter. Through a range of different inquiries and investigations, pupils will discover the properties of solids, liquids and gases and explain what happens when they change state. Pupils will discover the temperatures of melting, freezing, boiling and condensation of water and will help Mr Willy Wonka work out if he can save any of the chocolate in his factory after a melting disaster! Pupils will finally learn about the Water Cycle and the importance of it in our world. During the second half term, pupils will move on to learning about rocks and soils.

DT - During Fairtrade fortnight (second half-term) pupils will be able to put their knowledge of chocolate production and melting points to good use when they will be challenged with the task of designing and creating their own Fairtrade chocolate product. Not only will pupils have to create the chocolate product itself (food technology!), they will have to use nets as patterns to create the packaging and advertise their product. This is sure to be a topic enjoyed by all!

RE - In RE lessons during the first half-term, pupils will focus on the key concept, symbol. During this unit, pupils will understand how trees can be used as a symbol, what they could symbolise as well as the importance of trees to those of Christian and Hindu faith. During the second half-term, pupils will move on to looking at the concept of 'ritual' and look at how the Paschal Candle is used by many Christians during Baptism as a reminder that we are crucified and resurrected with Christ.

Maths - In maths lessons this half-term, pupils will begin by learning their new times table facts. For Year 3, this will be the 8x tables (using their knowledge of doubling 4x tables) and for Year 4, we will move onto learning our 7 and 9 x tables. We will continue to learn and practise our times table facts throughout the remainder of the 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 continue using 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.

Pupils will then be shown how to multiply and divide numbers using a range of mental and written methods. After that, Robins class will be developing their knowledge of decimals and fractions. They will find fractions of amounts and quantities, recognise and show equivalent fractions and Year 4 will explore how to simplify fractions, too.

Our Big Question for the second half- term: What Makes Something or Someone 'Great'?



History- During the second half-term, Robins class will be travelling back in time again, this time to focus on one particular individual- Alfred the Great. Pupils will identify key information about Alfred as a person, they will explore aspects of his reign and legacy and will build upon their previous learning about the Anglo-Saxons. Pupils will become historians and use contemporary and later opinions about King Alfred and his reign to inquire whether he truly was 'great'. The topic will equip pupils with the ability to describe, with examples, how King Alfred's reign had consequences for Britain and use evidence to decide whether these were good or bad consequences for Britain and how they contribute to King Alfred's reputation.

Computing- During computing lessons this term, pupils will firstly develop their understanding of desktop publishing. They will learn how to edit text and layout, choose appropriate page settings, add content to a desktop publishing publication. They will learn how different layouts can suit different purposes. Robins class will then move on to learning about branching databases- this will build on their previous knowledge of classification keys in Science from last half-term.

Music- This term the children will continue having Music lessons with Mr Jones, where they will have the opportunity to learn to play and improvise using the notes learnt on the recorder. They will also have the opportunity to listen to and identify other instruments in the flute family.

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 be introduced to shape vocabulary and will use prepositions of place in an art project linked to Sonia Deluanay.

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, hockey and circuit training. In addition to the timetabled PE lessons, children will continue having the opportunity to complete their golden mile at other times during the week. Of course, this is weather dependent.

Home-learning- Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a **Monday and due in the following Monday**. Homework will continue to be set 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 13th January** to help us celebrate the learning of Robins class- hopefully you have already received your invitation last half-term. During this, 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 from last term.

An Introduction...

Finally, this term we will be welcoming Ms Minta to come and work with Robins class. Ms Minta is a final year teaching student from Winchester University and will be teaching in Robins, alongside myself, until the end of her placement at Easter.

As always, if you have any questions or queries about either your child or their learning, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hulme (Robins Class teacher/Assistant Headteacher)

