



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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

Telephone: **01256 389278**

Email: **admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk**

Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

## **Sparrows class newsletter – Autumn 2023**

Dear Parents,

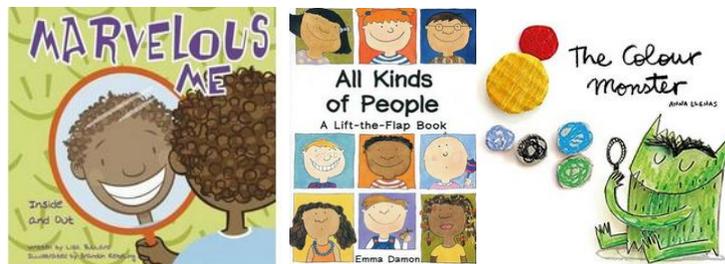
We hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed making some lovely memories. Welcome to our exciting, new Sparrows class. Our main priorities for Reception children will be settling them into the school routine, getting to know them and providing a happy, smooth transition from home to school in order to create a positive attitude towards learning. Our Year 1 children will be following the Year 1 curriculum expectations as well as consolidating and building upon learning from their foundation year, which is a very important part of their transition into Key Stage 1.

**Our Big Question for the first half of the term for reception children is: “Who is in my world?” Year 1’s will be exploring “How do we survive and thrive?”**

**Our Big Question for the second half of the term for Reception children will be: “Why are the leaves changing colour?” and “How can we make my local area a better place?” for Year 1**

### **Literacy**

Some of the key texts we will look at in the first half of the term are “Marvellous Me”, “All Kinds of People” and “The Colour Monster”



Year will be using these to explore descriptions and will write their own descriptions of themselves and members of their family as well as explore different emotions. In their writing they will be moving on to writing with increased accuracy and independence- applying their phonic knowledge from their Reception year. Expectations in their writing will include leaving spaces between their words and using capital letters in the right places. They will also explore different types of punctuation - full stops, question marks and exclamation marks in their work.

We will be using some lovely seasonal texts “The Leaf Thief” and “Autumn” to explore what happens and makes it Autumn. Year 1 children will create their own fact file about this beautiful season.

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We will also use “The Owl Babies” for Reception children to act out and storymap the story. Year 1 will use this familiar story to write a recount of the story and then will create their own story in a similar style. In the second half of the term, Reception children will take part in the annual “World Nursery Rhyme week” with their rhyme a day challenge.

## Maths

### Reception children

In maths, Reception children be sorting using different objects - looking at matching the same and comparing what is different. They will explore repeating patterns and use different resources to copy, continue and create their own repeating patterns. They 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. Reception children will also explore 2D shapes and positional language over the term.

### Year 1

Year 1 will be consolidating number bonds to 10 and their understanding of place value. They will order and compare numbers to 10 using objects, order numbers using a number line and make ‘teen’ numbers by adding some more to 10. They will also be using concrete and pictorial ways to represent numbers to 20 and order and compare numbers up to 20. Year 1’s will explore money and how much each coin to 10p is worth. They will use coins to 10p to solve addition and subtraction problems.

With numbers to 20 Year 1 will look at subtraction as ‘taking away’; begin to count back to subtract and see how subtraction ‘undoes’ addition. They will decide whether to add or subtract to solve a word problem. Over the term they will count in 10s and begin to use multiplication; recognise odd and even number and find halves and quarters of shapes.

Year 1 children will be given a “my maths” log in for maths homework which will help them to consolidate learning done in class- details of this will be sent out shortly.

### Understanding the World (EYFS) / RE (Year 1)

For Religious Education, our focus will be “Belonging” in the first half term.

Reception children will identify ways we are all the same, identify what makes me me. They will recognise what makes someone a Christian and talk about the importance of belonging for Christians.

Year 1 children will explore belonging in Judaism. They will talk about their own responses to *belonging* and identify how their response to the idea of *belonging* relates to their own lives. They will recognise how Jewish people show that they *belong* to the Jewish faith and talk about the importance of *belonging* to Jewish people.

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After half term our Reception children will explore Christmas and the concept of celebration through the question “Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?” They will recognise that Christians celebrate Jesus’ birthday by identifying some elements of the celebration and talk about the importance of celebrating Jesus’ birthday for Christians.

Year 1 children will be exploring Nativity Journeys (Journey’s End) with the key question being “Why does Christmas matter to Christians?” They will talk about their own responses to *journey’s end* in their experience and identify how different *journey’s ends* relate to their lives. They will also recognise the *journey’s end* of the characters in the Christmas birth narratives and talk about the importance of the *journeys’ end* to Christians

### **Past and Present (EYFS) / History (Year 1)**

During the first half of term Reception children will explore how things change over time. They will first explore their own personal history and how they have changed since they were babies. They will also explore a significant individual- King Charles and his coronation being a recent event in their lifetime. They will use “Little People, Big Dreams” books to explore members of the King’s family and look at what his family tree looks like. After half term reception children will use the nursery rhyme- Polly put the kettle on to explore how kettles have changed over time- looking at examples of old fashioned ones to their modern day counterparts and how things have changed over time. They will also use the rhyme Mary had a little lamb to compare images of a Victorian school to ours today- and explore what things are similar and how things are different.

Year 1 children will be exploring significant individuals nationally/internationally through looking at Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. The key concepts they will explore will be recognising and talking about why these 2 women were important, when they lived/where events took place. They will look at the main events in their lives and make comparisons between the work they did. Year 1 children will alternate between history and geography each half term.

### **The Natural World (EYFS) / Science (Year 1)**

Our science focus for the first half of term for Reception children will be about our bodies, concentrating on our skeleton, naming the different parts of our body and how we use our body in day to day life and what we can do with it. We will also explore ways in which we keep healthy.

After half term Reception children will explore seasonal change and what happens in Autumn. As part of this they will look at how during autumn some animals, such as hedgehogs begin to hibernate and find out what hibernation means.

Year 1 children will be looking at animal survival during the first half term. They will look at different groups of animals and what classifies a mammal, reptile and amphibian. They will also explore how animals need to use movement and their senses for survival. After half term their learning will focus on how materials can change. They will explore how materials can be changed by physical force such as twisting, bending, squashing and stretching in order to understand why we choose certain materials to do certain jobs. Children will plan how to test materials such as wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, paper, rock, cardboard, exploring how to create a scientific experiment.

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## **The Natural World (EYFS) / Geography (Year 1)**

Over the term Reception children will be exploring the key questions - “where do I live? Where does my family live? How do I get to school? Who lives the closest/furthest from the school? They will also explore our school grounds, looking at what features we have in our immediate environment.

Year 1 children will identify and use geographical vocabulary to refer to key human and physical features of our school grounds. They will use fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of our school and its surrounding environment so that they can devise a simple map using symbols and a key. We will go on a walk around our village to identify and plot landmarks and human and physical features

## **Expressive Arts and Design (EYFS) / Art/ DT (Year 1)**

Over the term we will be exploring the work of the artist Andy Warhol through the mediums of drawing, painting and printing. Reception children will create self- portraits and Year 1 will create self-portraits in a pop art style. After half term we will then use his work to inspire our own pop art autumn leaf prints.

Reception children will use a variety of tools and techniques to join, cut, paste and create with. For their DT focus, Year 1 children will explore what a mechanism is, looking at different joining techniques in order to design and create a functional, moving picture with a lever.

## **Physical development**

We have two 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 also use them for the Golden Mile which we will do throughout the week as well as in PE sessions. This term we will be developing our awareness of space through games, exploring different balances in gym and creating our own autumn dance.

## **Computing**

Throughout the first half term Reception children will use technology to develop their fine motor skills through using paint programmes to draw with. They will also explore computer systems - what a computer is and how it can be used and recognise digital devices in their environment.

Year 1 will be discovering how technology is used around us. We will be exploring different purposes and developing our own skills in using technology. We will also be learning about how to use technology safely and responsibly. After half term Year 1 will be learning about ‘data’. What is data? How do we use data? How can we store data? We will be collecting our own data and learning how to store it. Again, as a part of our e-safety, we will also be learning about reliable and unreliable information that can be found online.

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## Music

In our music sessions we will be finding the pulse of different pieces of music and copying basic rhythm patterns. We will also explore high and low using voices and sounds of characters in the songs. We will also explore playing with two pitched notes to invent our own musical patterns.

## PSHE

Over the first half term, Reception children will be talking about who is in my family and the British value of mutual respect. During the second half of the term, they will explore how do I make friends and look after them and how we show respect for others of different faiths and beliefs.

Year 1 children will explore who is special to them and talk about different features of family life, including what families do/enjoy together. They will also explore what is the same and different about us. They will continue looking at relationships after half term and will be focusing on similarities and differences between people such as likes and dislikes, strengths and other commonalities. We will use the correct names for body parts.

## Baseline Assessment - Reception children

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.

## Home Learning

Each week the phonic words that we focus on in our class sessions will be sent home this will be paper based to begin with but once the children have been assigned their Google classroom log in they will be posted on there each week. Please can you practice these with your child. Also when the children are assigned their reading book they will also bring home a sheet of words that the book focusses on. Please can you practice these each week with your child as well as read through their assigned E-book.

Year 1 children will have homework set weekly- one week this will be an English based task and the next a maths one- these will be put in their home learning book. Please note maths will be a combination of My Maths (online) some weeks and a paper based task other weeks. The log in's for My Maths have been stuck into their red reading diary

Year 1 children will also have weekly spellings and need to continue to read their assigned E-book every week – their log in details for this have been stuck into their red reading diary with their new storywings grid.

## Reading and Phonics

We use a phonic scheme called Little Wandle letter and sounds revised. Parents of reception children 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. 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.

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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- the children all have a home- school communication book for any notes which we need to be aware of- such as if they are being collected by someone different etc. You can also contact us via the admin email account - ([admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk)) if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Michelle Cooke  
Class Teacher

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