



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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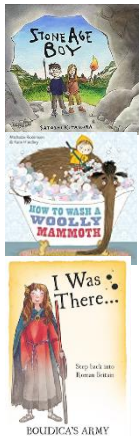
Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to what promises to be a very exciting year here in Robins Class! I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your child's class teacher. I look forward to meeting you all soon and working with you to ensure your child has a wonderful year ahead!



### **Our Big Question for the first half term: How did life change between the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age?**

**History and Art-** We begin this term by travelling back in time to Prehistoric Britain to explore life in the Stone Age, Bronze Age & Iron Age. During history lessons this term, pupils will learn when these periods of time occurred chronologically and develop an appreciation of some of the difficulties our early ancestors would have faced. Pupils will become true historians when using a range of sources and artefacts to discover what life was like during these periods in order to draw comparisons. They will use their newfound knowledge to draw conclusions about which period they would most have liked to live in. In Art lessons, we will embark on a virtual tour of the Lascaux Caves in order to discover original Stone Age cave paintings. Pupils will compare this very early form of art to more contemporary artists such as Banksy before having a go at creating their own cave paintings in a similar style. We will explore how to use charcoal effectively when mark making and materials that would be best suited to create a stain for the background. Linked to this, we will then explore the work of Alberto Giacometti before designing and creating our own 3D sculptures in a similar style.



**English-** English lessons this term will link to our history topic, beginning with the wonderful text- *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. Through this text, we shall explore Stone Age life further, using a range of drama activities to bring parts of the story to life and develop some of our key reading skills such as inference and deduction. We will explore technical vocabulary before learning how to write an effective recount text from the point of view of one of the characters in the story. We will continue to practice writing for a purpose, for children to participate in the 500 Word Challenge where they have the opportunity to express their creativity! After this, we will learn how to write effective instructions using *How to wash a Woolly Mammoth* by Michelle Robinson and Kate Hindley as our exemplar text; learning how to use imperative verbs and precise sentences to ensure our reader can follow the instructions easily. After half term, we will explore another fantastic text as pupils will take on the role of Boudicca in order to learn how to write and perform a motivational rallying speech, persuading the rest of the Iceni tribe to join her cause. The outcome of this unit will be recorded on the iPads using the green screen so that pupils can be transported back in time to deliver their speech as Boudicca in AD 60!

In addition to these lessons, pupils will continue to have regular spelling, handwriting, guided reading and grammar lessons throughout the week.

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## **Our Big Question for the second half- term: Is Southampton a gateway to the world?**

Geography- This topic will have children building their knowledge of land use and settlement of Southampton in order to understand how Southampton is connected to the world. Through this topic, pupils will learn how to locate the UK and use key vocabulary to describe its position within Europe, bordering countries and oceans. Children will locate Hampshire within the UK and describe countries, capital cities, counties and compass directions. Through learning how to read maps, pupils will learn about Hampshire's key physical and human characteristics and use the four points of a compass to describe the pattern of features they have found.

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 in the first half of the term will be based on the topic of light. Throughout the unit, children will understand the role of light in helping us to see. They will learn about artificial and natural light sources and explore how light behaves with different materials. We will then move on to learning about electricity and circuits, where children will explore which materials either allow or do not allow electricity to flow through. In addition, Robins class will begin their longitudinal study in which they will explore how changes to the school grounds might affect the plants and animals that live there.

DT – Later on in the term, our DT lessons will link to our Science topic of electricity. Children will learn how to make simple circuits through understanding the key equipment required to make circuits. They will evaluate products and ideas against design criteria and will later design and make switches for a specific function using a variety of materials. Children will develop their design and creation of circuits through increasing complexity such as using two or more lamps or devices to understand how circuits are used in everyday life. By the end of this unit, children will have consolidated their understanding through designing and creating their own lantern for collective worship!

Computing- During computing lessons this term, learners will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks in order to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.

Music- This term, we are incredibly lucky to have a music specialist teacher from the Hampshire HIAS music team who shall be teaching Robins every Tuesday 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.

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P.S.H.E and Citizenship- Robins class will begin this term by getting to know each other as a new class. Our theme for the first half term is based on establishing Mutual Respect; one of our key British and School Values! After learning about rights and responsibilities, we will create a class charter for our new classroom. Through regular circle times and PSHE lessons, children will learn how to be a good friend, considerate of other's feelings, opinions, and values. Children will learn how to communicate safely and solve disputes and conflicts amongst their peers, as well as the importance of health and hygiene in ensuring that people stay safe and healthy. Children will continue developing their listening skills through a range of different activities both in and outside of PSHE lessons.

R.E – In RE, we will be exploring the concept of messages. Children will begin to recognise and describe a message within a story that is significant to Christians and other believers, to understand the value of stories with messages. Children will accurately describe a personal response to stories with messages by reflecting on a message of their own. After half term, we will then explore the concept of angels. In addition to their own interpretations, children will describe how Christians express beliefs about angels. Throughout our topics, children will have opportunities to express their thoughts and reflections creatively.

French- In French lessons this year, Robins class will continue to listen to and respond to a range of spoken phrases. We will engage in conversations, giving basic information relating to ourselves, our age, pet, family, where we live and our birthday. Children will learn to ask how to say something in French and develop an understanding of noun gender. At the end of the term, we will learn about Christmas celebrations in France!

P.E – P.E lessons this term will take place on a **Monday** and **Thursday** 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. PE lessons this term will include Dance and Gymnastics as well as Invasion games such as Tag Rugby and Hockey. 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**. 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Miss Chestney-Stagg (Robins Class teacher), Miss Last (LSA) and Mrs Mas (LSA)

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