



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn term! I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful Summer break.

This looks like it is going to be an extremely exciting term, especially because we are getting the opportunity to go to Stubbington!



Our Big Enquiry Question for the first half term: Is every country equal?

Geography: 'Australia and Russia natural resources- equalities?' I hope your child enjoyed their summer home-learning and we are looking forward to hearing and seeing all they have learnt so far. The main aim of this unit is to improve each child's knowledge and understanding of the distribution of natural resources and understand that they are unevenly distributed and used. Each child will be able to locate and identify continents and oceans, identify the human and physical features of Australia and Russia, describe the pattern across the country using the eight points of a compass and describe where the natural resources are around the world. They will understand not everyone in the world is as fortunate and has access to as much clean water, food, and natural resources as we do. Kingfisher Class will evaluate which resources are the most important and will justify where they would choose to live. We will be exploring the question: 'could we survive and thrive without the rest of the world?'

Our Big Enquiry Question for the second half- term: Why does parliament run the country rather than the King?

History and Art- 'The changing power of monarchs' - We will begin this topic, by looking into King John and the affect he had on the parliament running the country. Each child will analyse a range of sources to discover the positive and negative moments in King John's reign. We will then create a class blog, which will include our findings on James I. The next monarch we will focus on will be Queen Anne and we will decide whether she was a powerful monarch or not. Kingfisher Class will create a snakes and ladders game to illustrate the ups and downs of Queen Anne's life. Another question we will be exploring is: 'Queen Victoria is a very well-known Queen, does that mean she had lots of power?' During this aspect of the topic, we will be creating an exhibit to celebrate Queen Victoria's life and reign for a pop-up museum. The class will vote for Queen Victoria's parliament's position and whether Queen Victoria was politically powerful or just a respected and loved figurehead. To complete this topic, the class will be producing a video for TV series 'Mighty Monarchs' to share their knowledge of all the monarchs they have been looking at in detail. During Art lessons this term, we will be sketching and printing, inspired by Victorian artists: Thomas Bewick and William Morris

English- For the first term in English, each child will be putting their letter writing skills to test as they write to Kingfisher Class staff introducing themselves and their dreams and aspirations for the future. We will continue writing for a purpose as we give every child an opportunity to enter the 500 word story writing competition, I know the children have such creative ideas and thoroughly enjoy writing their own stories and I feel that other children's authors should have the same privilege as I do reading them. The children will then be introduced to our 'Spooky Scientist' unit, inspired by the text 'The Phantom Coach' by Amelia B Edwards, from this the children will be creating mad scientist profiles and recounts. Lastly, we will be reading 'The Unforgettable Coat' by Frank Cottrell Boyce as a class and creating a school guide for new pupils and their parents.

For the second half term, linking to our 'Changing Power of Monarchs' topic, we will be reading 'Street child' and in Guided Reading we will firstly be reading 'Treason' and then 'Far from home', which is a sequel to 'Street Child'. All texts are written by Berlie Doherty, and I ensure you all children will be hooked! Every child will develop their reading and comprehension skills, as well as their confidence to read aloud to peers. We also encourage the children in Kingfisher class to express themselves in a variety of Drama activities. This will include hot seating characters from 'Street child', conscience alley and freeze-framing scenes from the story, which supports their understanding of key events. Throughout this topic, the children will have the opportunity to write: diary entries, poems, balanced arguments, book reviews and their own story from the Victorian era.

Maths - Children in Kingfisher class will be consolidating many areas of the curriculum and applying what they have already learnt through problem solving and reasoning. All children will be revisiting previous areas involving place value and formal written methods for multiplication, division, subtraction, and addition. Problem solving will be at the heart of this learning, with the opportunities to use the mathematics resources when needed. Kingfisher class will also be able to use 'My Maths' and Times Tables Rock Stars for home-learning, which can be accessed from both home and school.

Science and DT- In Science lessons this term, we will be studying 'making new substances' and 'Controlling electrical currents'. Each child will become scientists that will be encouraged to question the world around them and get actively involved in lots of different experiments. They will firstly be planning and leading an experiment to test what substances are reversible or irreversible when mixed with other substances, which could get very messy! We will then be investigating what happens to substances when they are heated through cooking and whether or not they could get their original ingredients back. Each child will be faced with numerous experiments to find out whether gas weighs anything. Lastly, during both Science and DT lessons, Kingfisher class will be advertising how to stay safe around electricity; they will create their own safe electrical circuits! We will end this aspect of Science and DT by creating electrical games based around our current learning.

Computing-We will begin computing this year by re-capping online safety. Then all children will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. They will explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. Kingfisher Class will also take part in a collaborative online project with other class members and develop their skills in working together online. Our second unit looks at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records. All children will use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data. They will create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems.

Music- In Music this term all children will appreciate a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music from different traditions and from great composers and musicians. A focus in Music this term will be to sing as part of an ensemble with confidence and precision, in the lead up to our Christmas performance. All children will be encouraged to improve songs, through adding musical instruments and working in groups to improve the vocals and lyrics of the original songs. We also are incredibly fortunate enough to learn to play instruments with HIAS music specialists.

P.S.H.E and Citizenship- Kingfisher class will begin this term by getting to know each other as a new class. Some children already know each other well but through our residential trip together, regular circle times and PSHE lessons they will be able to build up stronger friendships, through thinking of other's feelings, opinions, and values. The children will be given roles and responsibilities throughout the school year.

For the first half- term we will reflect on the question: 'What makes up our identity?', where the children will learn to recognise, respect and celebrate similarities and differences of others in our class and in our wider community. They will learn how to politely challenge stereotypes and assumptions as these are not always accurate and can negatively influence behaviours and attitudes towards others. For the second half of the term, Kingfisher class will explore the question: 'What decisions can people make with money?'. All children will discover how people make decisions about spending and saving money and what influences them to do so.

They will be given the skills to learn how to keep track of money and discuss the choices people make when paying for things. The children will get a stronger understanding of the value of money and whether they need or want something as there can be risks associated with money, affecting people's feelings and emotions in the process. Both PSHE topics are very fascinating and may lead to extra discussions at home.

R.E – In the first half term of RE, we will be focussing on the concept of 'Power' through the topic 'Systems of Rule and Citizenship'. The children will begin by defining what people might mean by 'power' and explain how God's power is significant for Christians and Muslims. They will then accurately describe the significance of believers' interpretations of God's power and respond with their own personal experiences of what 'power' means to them and how it affects their own and other's lives. For the second half of the term in RE, Kingfisher Class will be exploring 'Christmas- the two birth narratives' through the concept interpretation. Each child will define the meaning of 'interpretation' and explain why there are two interpretations of the birth of Jesus in the Bible. They will refer this back to their own experiences where two or more different interpretations have occurred in situations evident in their own lives.

French- The first French topic Kingfisher class will be exploring is 'Chez Moi'. All children will revisit the map of France and the Francophone world, focusing in on places that they know and recognise. Following on from a revision of the types of questions to gather personal information about a person. Pupils then move on to talking about where they live, whether their house is big or small and who they live with through a range of fairy-tale characters. The second French topic Kingfisher class will be through the picture book, *Les citrons ne sont pas rouges*, where children will explore agreement of nouns and adjectives in the masculine, feminine and, for the first time, the plural. Kingfisher class will explore the way that agreements sound verbally and how they look when they are written down. They will use bilingual dictionaries to find their own nouns to create a book, based on the original, which describes the colours of various objects, food items and animals.

P.E –In the first half term of PE we will begin by learning a Haka dance as a whole class, which I know all children will thoroughly enjoy. We will also be improving our tag rugby skills through our invasion games unit. After half- term we will be moving onto gymnastics with a focus on shape and balancing. We will also get to enjoy working as a team whilst improving our basketball abilities. All children will have the opportunity to run the Golden Mile as much as possible. 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.

Home-learning- Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a Friday. Topic home-learning will be set when appropriate, with plenty of time to carry out the task. Spellings will be set and tested every Friday. 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. It would be a lovely achievement if all children achieved their story wings badge this year, as it supports their confidence in reading and writing and once achieved children felt so proud of themselves. If you wish to discuss anything about this term, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Meier
Class Teacher