



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Robins Class Newsletter Spring Term 2024**

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas holiday and a joyful start to this new year. I am excited to be joining the school in the Robins class and I look forward to getting to know you over this spring term!

#### **Our Big Question for the first half term: Were the Anglo-Saxons the ruin of Britain?**

History- In this rather wintery term we will start by examining medieval Britain and the origins of the Anglo-Saxons. Tracing their routes back to northern Europe, children will discover the reasons for various clans and tribes moving overseas and what kind of effect this had on the existing Britons in the formation of Scotland, Wales and France. Children will use their historian skills to examine to gain knowledge of the main impacts of the Saxon legacy.

English – Our English lessons will commence with the concepts, narrative features and characters of a myths and will be linked with those found in the medieval period of Anglo-Saxon heritage. We will be reading the DK book *Mythical Creatures and Magical Monsters* by Deborah Lock. Children will have the opportunity to draw on prior knowledge to predict content and explore the nature of myths. Children will write a description of their own mythical monster. We will follow this up by writing a non-chronological report about mythical beasts. As we go through the term pupils will continue to have regular spelling, handwriting, guided reading and grammar lessons throughout the week.

Geography – Our topic for this year is ‘Peru Biomes and Climate Change’. Robins class will identify the different features of the world’s biomes and explore the relationship between rainforests and eco systems. Children will learn about the different types of forests within the UK and how these differ from those found in the tropics. We will also explore how climate change is affecting these systems.

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.

Science & D&T – This term Science lessons will be focused on the topic of digestion and this will be linked with our Design and Technology lessons about designing healthy eating. Children will learn about grouping food and why a balanced diet is necessary for good health by exploring the nutritional make up of different types of food. Further into the term we will explore the topic of animals, skeletons and movement. Children will learn about why vertebrates have skeletons and how they work in tandem with muscles to help us move. In our D&T lessons, we will examine

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what makes certain foods healthy by classifying and understanding what our body needs to be healthy. Our learning outcome will be to make a healthy salad.

Computing – Audio and photo editing will be our topic for this term. Children will be using various editing programs to plan, create and edit their own work. This will be used to create a radio advert for their healthy salad created in our D&T lessons.

Art – Our topic will be the rainforest this term and will be looking at the works of Georgia O’Keefe and Vincent Van Gogh. Children will be learning about object and colour matching, digital and print making and how to create compositions by exploring the use of space and overlapping shapes. We will be working towards creating a mixed media collage that explores shape, place, value and colour.

RE – Robins will begin their RE lessons by asking ourselves about the nature of good and evil. We will go on to explore the Hindu topic of Holi, looking at the stories and ways celebration is experienced in the Hindu religion. Children will learn about the ways good triumphs over evil and we will see how this relates to experiences we have in our own lives.

French - Robins class will continue to listen to and respond to a range of spoken phrases within the topic title of ‘Ours Brun’. Children will be introduced to a simple range of nouns and learn to create simple sentences using the starter ‘voici’ (here is). We will learn about colours and explore noun/adjective order. Children will create a mini book, creating a retelling of the story.

PE – Our lessons this term will focus on invasion games playing netball and football. PE will also include dance and gym with the subjects of ‘the rainforest’ and ‘jumping and balancing’. PE will be twice a week so please ensure PE kits remain in school during the week.

PSHE - PSHE this term will be about the topic of health and well-being. We will explore the topic of why we should eat well and the impact this has on our health, specifically, our teeth. Children will learn about why good oral hygiene is important and the impact of poor food choices. Latterly, Robins class will explore the role of physical activity on our health and how and why sleep is important.

Music – Robins class will learn about Samba this term. Children will continue to identify and understand changes of tempo and dynamic, learn about the different types of instruments that used in Samba and will invent and play their own music.

Home-learning-Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a Friday and due back in the following Thursday. 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,

Mr Aston, Robins Class Teacher

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