



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

## Woodpeckers Class

Dear Parents,

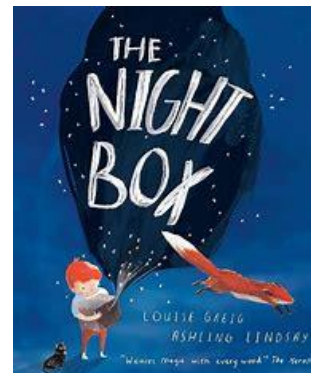
Welcome back to a brand-new school year. I hope you've had a relaxing summer full of well-deserved family time and the children are feeling rested. As you are aware, your child is in Woodpeckers' class this year. Woodpeckers is the Year 2 and 3 class. I am excited to see where the 2024-25 adventure takes us. Please see below for important information regarding our curriculum for the Autumn Term.

Before the half term holidays, our 'Big Enquiry Question' is '**What makes a successful journey?**' which will be driven by our history topic about the British inventor and civil engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

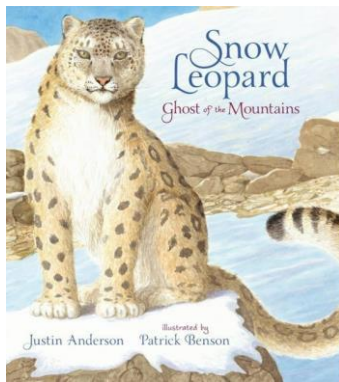
Following half term holidays, our 'Big Enquiry Question' will be '**Where in the world are we!?**' which will be driven by our geography topic about locational knowledge of Europe.

### **Literacy**

We will be starting the year by reading the wordless book 'The Lion and the Mouse', an adaptation of one of Aesop's fables by Jerry Pinkney. The children will retell the fable as an original narrative. This will require exploration of writing structure and ensuring understanding of key messages to convey them accurately. We shall follow this with 'The Night Box', by Louise Greig. The children will be using her lyrical style as inspiration for their own poetry performances where they create imagery through words. During this task the children will have the opportunity to develop their synergy and think 'win-win' in collaborating to create the final product.



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After the half term holidays, we will continue discovering poetry with the poem 'Snow', by Walter de la Mare. Snow captures appreciation for the beauty of winter snowfall through natural imagery and description. The children will be making comparisons between this, and other pieces by de la Mare. Then, they shall produce their own written, seasonal poem inspired by natural imagery. Our final book of the Autumn Term will be 'Snow Leopard: Grey Ghost of the Mountain', by Justin Anderson. The children will develop the skill of writing to non-fiction by creating fact files about snow leopards.

### Spelling and Reading

Year 2 will start by reviewing the Phase 5 sounds. As part of this they will be continuing to develop fluency in reading longer words. Year 2 will then transition into the Little Wandle spelling scheme through the 'Bridge to Spelling' unit. This is where the children learn to use spelling rules to determine which pattern of a sound to use. The children will be progressing through units whilst revising 'prickly words' (tricky words) and common homophones. Spelling tests will be every Friday afternoon. The words selected will be related to the spelling rules we have learnt about that week. We encourage the children to think about this when they are practicing at home

Year 3 will be continuing to embed their knowledge of spelling rules by recapping the Little Wandle spelling units throughout the year. This will help the children to develop fluency in applying spelling rules to their writing and therefore contribute to the quality of their final pieces. Spelling checks will be every Friday afternoon. The words selected will be related to the spelling rules we have learnt about that week. We encourage the children to think about this when they are practicing at home.

### Maths

Throughout the first half of the term, the children will be building on their previous knowledge of place value by looking at 3 digit numbers. The children will practice recognising and writing these numbers and parts and wholes, as words and in addition and subtraction sentences. We will then progress onto applying this knowledge to contextual problems to solve. They will recap recalling bonds to 10 and apply the principles to bigger numbers (for example  $8+2=10$ ,  $28+2=30$ ) to increase fluency in simple addition to help solve wider problems. The children will be challenged to solve 2 part problems using learning they are confident in applying.

Following the half term holidays the children will be starting to learn about splitting amounts into fractions amounts lesser than half, thirds and quarters. The children will be introduced to technical terms such as numerator and denominator. When continuing with shape space and measure, the children will begin to learn about standard units of length and capacity such as mm, cm, ml and l. The children will be ending the term by further embedding understanding of the concept of division using their 5s, 10s and 2 times tables. They will be encouraged to identify the inverse relationship between multiplication and division and use this to build fluency to help solve wider maths problems.

### RE

The children explore the concept of 'belonging' during the first half of the term. They will express their own experiences of 'belonging' and recognise examples of why they and others feel like this. For example, understanding that they are a part of a new class, clubs. The school, their family etc. They will then contextualise this by exploring how Christians feel 'belonging' in church.

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After half term the children will be exploring the concept of 'waiting' through the theme of Advent. They will think about the effect that 'waiting' has on their own lives and the lives of those around them. They will learn how Advent is a time of waiting and describe why some Christians believe this is an important part of their religion in the lead up to Christmas.

### **History**

Woodpeckers class are starting the year by undergoing a historical enquiry to answer the question 'Is K Brunel: engineering genius or reckless risktaker?' This unit has the children explore in depth as to who Isambard Kingdom Brunel was, his achievements and failures and his degree of lasting impact on modern day transport. The children will start to compare and understand the different modes of transport from the past and contrast them to modern modes of transport. The children will develop their historical disciplinary skills throughout this unit. They will build upon their understanding that history can be retold through different accounts depending upon the person and perspective and time of recording. They will begin to analyse different accounts of Brunel's work and evaluate their reliability and their bias.

Throughout the second half of the term, the children will carry out their geography unit.

### **Geography**

Woodpeckers are beginning their geography learning journey in the second half of the Autumn term. The children will be building up their locational knowledge of the continents with particular focus on Europe. The children will practice identifying Europe on a world map and then identify the United Kingdom within it. They will begin to know where key cities throughout Europe are and which countries they can be found in. The children will develop previously taught knowledge of physical and human geographical features of landscapes and apply this knowledge to the different geographical regions of Europe. Finally, they will explore how these features indicate natural resources and touch upon how this places Europe on the world stage through trading and exportation.

### **Science**

In the first half of the Autumn term, the children are learning about changing materials and states of matter (solids, liquids and gasses.) As a class we will recap the properties of different materials and sort them by using knowledge of similarities and differences. The children will discuss how these could be changed, for example by applying a push or pull force. Following this, we will delve deeper into the make up of these materials by introducing the solids, liquids and gasses. The children will explore and observe different objects according to these matters. Finally, the children will learn how these matters may change. For example, freezing or heating up/melting.

In the second half of the Autumn term, Woodpeckers class will be learning about living things and exploring animal life cycles. The children will be looking at the different stages of life and what happens in each stage. We will learn what is crucial for living things to survive and continue such as food and reproduction. It is important for the children to become aware that death is a part of the animal lifecycle. We will then progress to cover the classification of animals and discover the similarities and differences of different classifications and lifecycles. We will finish the term by discussing why these similarities and differences exist and what are some significant features of certain animals' life cycles. For example, some animals are eusocial which means they live in colonies.

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## **Art/ DT**

Throughout the first half of the summer term our DT focus. The children will be working towards sewing an animal hand puppet as their outcome. They will first explore a range of existing products similar to their brief and then experiment with a range of different sewing techniques. The children will practice the basic development process by designing against success criteria, making the final product and then evaluating its suitability against intention.

After the half term holidays, the children will be introduced to the art of printmaking. Throughout this unit, the children will take inspiration for their designs from the natural world around them. They will be practicing capturing this world through drawings and sketching free hand, and tracing. They will then experiment printing with found objects, focusing on rotation and creating a repeating pattern. Woodpeckers class will work towards designing their own collagraph print. The children will learn how to create a tile that can be printed repeatedly using the 'relief printing' method. They will practice using tools such as the rollers and the printing blocks.

## **Physical Development**

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. If your child has their ears pierced, please ensure that they do not wear earrings on the days we have PE, that they can independently take their earrings out, or that you have provided tape to prevent injury caused by the earrings. Additionally, it is our school policy that long hair should be always tied back. This is especially the case on PE days. Woodpecker PE days will be Mondays and Fridays.

We will continue to have 2 PE sessions a week. During the first half term, they will cover circuit training and gymnastics. In circuit training, the children will focus on the principles of keeping healthy. They will learn to recognise and describe: The importance of staying physical exercise, how to exercise safely (such as warming up and cooling down), the importance of building strength and flexibility to carry out exercises correctly and the immediate effects physical exercise has on our body.

In gymnastics, the children will explore how to move their bodies whilst tensed, relaxed, curled and stretched. Using these movements the children will practice making sequences with changes in speed, height and direction throughout the performances. The children will give advice to others and develop their synergising skills by taking feedback. They will build their self-evaluation skills and act on feedback given to improve their overall performance.

## **Computing**

During the first half of the Autumn term, the children will be reintroduced to the information technology around them. They will practice basic functions such as resizing images and accessing files independently. In each unit throughout the year there will be an element of e-safety. The children will be taught how to use information from technology safely and respectfully.

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Throughout the second half of the Autumn term, the children will be creating media with a special focus on digital photography. They will learn about the process of capturing a digital photograph. They will choose to take a photo in either landscape or portrait and describe why they have chosen to do so. They will then retake the photographs to improve the image by looking at the light and using effect tools.

### **Music**

In our music sessions we will be inventing musical stories. The children will be developing their aural memory by listening to understand different pieces of high quality live and recorded music. They shall practice identifying the beat and then internalise it to keep track in their heads.

Throughout the second half of the term, the children will be building up to putting on a concert for their peers. They will be practicing singing a song in 2 parts and rehearse to perform to an audience with confidence. To do so the children will be exposed to identifying a steady beat by counting “1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4...”

### **PSHE**

Over the first half term our PSHE focus will be on developing the children’s existing understanding of what makes a good friend. We will look at the similarities and differences between themselves and others. We will explore what prompts different behaviour from others and how understanding this can be what makes a good friend. The children will also learn strategies to resolve arguments that may occur during friendships and understand that they should ask for help if a friendship is making them feel unhappy.

After half term we will build upon the theme of ‘relationships’ by exploring what is meant by ‘bullying.’ We will look at how words and actions can affect how other feel. This includes name-calling, hurtful teasing, bullying and deliberately excluding others. The children will become familiar with how to respond if this happens in different situations. The process of reporting such behaviour shall be made explicit to them. Finally, the children will understand how to ask for and give/not give permission regarding physical contact and how this may make others feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

### **French**

This term we will be practicing greetings and talking about our families. This unit will continue through the Autumn term. We will start by recapping greetings that the children will have covered last year. They will be introduced to new greetings and common questions/answered heard in conversations. The children will begin to use these and practice holding short conversations with other adults and their peers. Then the children will practice talking and writing about their family members. Finally, Woodpeckers will explore the intercultural similarities and differences between schools in France to the UK and also the Christmas traditions practiced.

### **Home Learning Year 2**

Each week the children will receive some words demonstrating the spelling rule we have been focusing on during lessons. They should practice writing these words, remembering the rules. In addition, they will receive the words they are to learn for their spelling tests which will take place on Fridays. These words will also be using the rule or the common exception words covered in class

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that week. Please encourage the children to use the correct spelling rules when practicing. The children should also work towards achieving their Story Wings badge. Please see the sheet stuck into the inner cover of their reading diary for the genre categories. Each week the children will receive either maths or English home learning. Sometimes, the children will receive their maths home learning via MyMaths. Please see the inner cover of your child's reading diary for login details. **All home learning will be stuck into the children's home learning books on Fridays. Home learning is due in every Thursday. We encourage the children to treat their home learning books with respect and to treat them as they would their learning books at school.**

### Year 3

Each week the children will receive some words demonstrating the spelling rule we have been focusing on during lessons. They should practice writing these words, remembering the rules. In addition, they will receive the words they are to learn for their spelling tests which will take place on Fridays. These words will also be using the rule or the common exception words covered in class that week. Please encourage the children to use the correct spelling rules when practicing. The children should also work towards achieving their Story Wings badge. Please see the sheet stuck into the inner cover of their reading diary for the genre categories. Each week the children will receive both maths and English home learning. These tasks will be short, but will support learning happening in class. Sometimes, the children will receive their maths home learning via MyMaths. Please see the inner cover of your child's reading diary for login details. **All home learning will be stuck into the children's home learning books on Fridays. Home learning is due in every Thursday. We encourage the children to treat their home learning books with respect and to treat them as they would their learning books at school.**

We are very much looking forward to a new term of learning opportunities and would like to thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the home- school communication book for any notes which we need to be aware of.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lydia Wells

Class Teacher

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