



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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## Sparrows Class

Dear Parents,

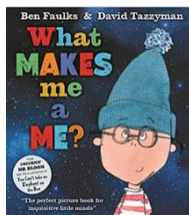
We hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed making some lovely memories. We are very pleased to welcome you to Sparrows class. As a team, our main priorities for Reception children over the next few weeks will be settling them into the school routine, getting to know them and providing a happy, smooth 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.

We hope this newsletter gives you an insight into what your children will be learning over the next term and we look forward to working with you to support your child as they settle into our class.

**Our Big Question for the first half of the term is “How have things changed over time?” followed by “Where do we live?” after half term.**

### Literacy

The key texts we will explore together in the first half of the term are “What makes me a me” by Ben Faulks and the rhyming “Oi Frog” series by Kes Gray.



Our Reception pupils will dive straight in with their phonics lessons and begin to learn those all-important sounds that will ensure future success in their literacy learning. They will also begin writing familiar words, such as their name and names of those people in their family.

Year 1 will be using these key texts to explore descriptions and will write their own descriptions of themselves and members of their family in more detail. Throughout this book, the children will be exploring how we are all different and what makes each of us unique.

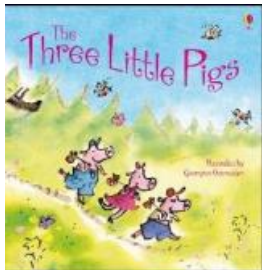
In their writing, Year 1 children will be moving on to writing with increased accuracy and independence- applying their phonic knowledge from their Reception year. Expectations in their writing will include leaving spaces between their words and using capital letters in the right places.

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They will also explore different types of punctuation - full stops, question marks and exclamation marks in their work.

When we look at the “Oi Frog” series, we will all be focussing on rhyme and Year 1 pupils will create their own letter from the frog’s point of view.

After half term, we will be using the traditional tale of ‘The three Little Pigs’ and ‘Stickman’ by Julia Donaldson as our text drivers.



These stories will provide the children with lots of opportunities for acting out and retelling the stories and creating storymaps to support us with this.

Reception children will also take part in the annual “World Nursery Rhyme week” with their rhyme a day challenge during the second half term.

## Maths

### Reception

In maths, Reception children will learn how to sort 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. Practical resources will be used continually throughout to ensure our reception pupils develop a strong understanding.

### Year 1

Year 1 pupils 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 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.

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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 Harvest during the first half of the term with the key concept of ‘celebration’. The children will talk about what a celebration is and the features of celebrations. They will then focus on the Harvest celebration and ways in which Christians celebrate this festival as well as the importance of it in Christianity.

***To help with this topic, please can all pupils bring in a photograph, a drawing or an object about a time in their lives when they were celebrating. This can be any celebration ie, a birthday, a family occasion, a wedding etc... Could these please be brought in as soon as possible. We will collect them in and keep them safe in the classroom. Please do name them if you can.***

After half term, our concept will be the candle as a symbol of light. Throughout this half term the children will be looking into Advent, Hannukah and Divali and finding out about how candle flames are used in them and what it means for people of different faiths.

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

During the first half term, our history topic will be “How have things changed over time?”

Reception children will explore their own personal history and how they have changed since they were babies.

***For this, please could we also ask you to send in a photo of your child when they were a baby to support with our discussions.***

Year 1 children will be looking into changes within living memory through the exploration of how technology has changed over time. We will be using pictures and artefacts to explore changes in domestic technology- such as how irons have changed from flat ones heated on an open fire to modern day electric and steam irons, how technology has changed the way we write and communicate, and how technology has changed the way we are entertained. We will compare old and new examples of phones, computers, CD players etc to discuss similarities and differences between them and suggest why things have changed over time. ***If you have any pictures or artefacts we could use for this or which you would be happy to come in and talk to us about then please let us know.***

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

After half term, we move to our geography topic linked to our big enquiry question “where do we live?”

The children will be exploring the UK and will use world maps, Google Earth, atlases to find out about and identify the United Kingdom and its countries. They will locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas as well as

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look at landmarks and basic human and physical features of the different countries. They will also explore simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map.

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

Our science focus for the first half of term will be on describing materials. Throughout this topic, children will be exploring the different properties of materials and how materials can be grouped according to these. After half term, we will be exploring how materials can be changed by exerting a force on them. Children will plan how to test materials (wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, paper, rock, cardboard) to support their understanding that we choose certain materials to do certain jobs.

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

For the first half term, art will be our focus with the topic self-portraits. The children will be looking at the works of Van Gogh and Frida Kahlo and exploring proportion when drawing and painting our own self-portraits. They will explore how texture can be added to features when drawing as well as mixing paints to create different shades and tones. The children will also be exploring printing in order to print a background for their own Frida Kahlo inspired portraits.

After half term, our focus will be DT where the children will be exploring preparing and cutting fruits in order to design and create their own healthy fruit kebab. More details on this will be sent out nearer the time.

### **Physical development/PE**

We have 2 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. If your child has pierced ears, please can they not wear earrings on our PE days which are Tuesday or Wednesday. A lot of valuable learning time will be lost if we have to waste time trying to take out earrings. If this is unavoidable, please ensure your child can remove them independently for our PE sessions.

This term we will be developing our awareness of space through games, exploring different balances in gym and creating our own seasons inspired dance.

### **MFL (French)**

Over the term, Reception children will focus on finding out more about France, how we get there and will learn some French nursery rhymes whilst Year 1 children will explore different greetings and practice using them in role play conversations. Pupils will also find out more about French Christmas traditions.

### **Computing**

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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 about data and grouping data. The children will be learning what is data? How do we use data? How can we store data? They will be collecting their own data and learning how to store it. As part of our e-safety, children will also be learning about how to use technology safely and responsibly.

## **Music**

In our music sessions we will be finding the pulse of different pieces of music and copying basic rhythm patterns. The children will explore dynamics through listening to different pieces of music and then using percussion instruments to create patterns using different dynamics.

## **PSHE**

Over the first half term, our PSHE focus will be what makes a good friend? The children will be exploring how we make new friendships, how friends can have different interests but still be friends and celebrating the similarities and differences in friendships. After half term, the children will be exploring the theme of bullying. They will understand what bullying means, how our actions have an impact on other people and how to respond if someone is being bullied.

## **Baseline Assessment- Reception children only**

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. Please 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 practice these each week with your child as well as read through their assigned E-book at least 3 times once it has been assigned as this will really support your child in their reading.

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 both be put into their home learning book. Please note maths will be a

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combination of Mymaths (online) some weeks and a paper based task other weeks. The log ins for My Maths will be 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 will be 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. Mrs Hulme will be working with the children as well as Miss Chandler during the week.

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 if you have any queries or concerns- 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.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Michelle Cooke

EY & KSI leader/Class Teacher

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