



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: 01256 389278

Email: admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Robins Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm and colourful welcome back to the autumn term. I hope you are all feeling refreshed and ready for more great learning experiences in the upcoming academic year. It's wonderful to be back with the children in Robins Class, and we have some marvellous topics to explore this term.



Our Big Enquiry Question for the first half term: How is reality affected by perspective?

This philosophical enquiry question will deeply intertwine with our English, Geography, and Art topics. For English, we will begin by reading Emma Chichester Clark's beautiful rendition of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. We will explore the meaning and use of magical realism and surrealism and children will learn to dissect and describe the vivid characters and bizarre narrative sequences of this classic piece of British fiction. Following on, children will examine the features of this text type and will go on to write a narrative that focuses on the build-up and dilemma of the story.



During the second half of the term, our English topic will be interwoven with our History topic as we delve into the everyday world of the Roman Empire. Children will use their knowledge of the Romans to write a non-chronological report and a recount. They will begin by extracting information about everyday Roman life from reading texts, then move on to identifying the features of these text types. Following this, children will write recounts from differing points of view.



Our enquiry question will also deeply influence our Art topic of surrealism. We will investigate the work of Salvador Dalí, focusing on his classic painting *The Persistence of Memory*. The class will learn about the origins and ideas of surrealism and will examine Dalí's exotic, dream-like paintings, studying his use of thematic content and how he expresses it with tone, shade, and line. These ventures will culminate in children creating their own surrealist painting and a personal rendition of the setting of *Alice in Wonderland*.

DT – In the second part of the term, Robins' class will study the structure of shells and develop their knowledge of nets of shape to construct 3D shapes. This will include hands-on activities where children will cut out and assemble various net patterns to create models of cubes, pyramids, and other complex geometric forms. By manipulating these shapes, they will gain a deeper understanding of geometry and spatial awareness. As they will be exploring the legacy of the Roman Empire in History lessons, children will finish their project by creating a Roman chariot. This final task will combine their new skills in design and technology with historical knowledge, allowing them to appreciate the engineering prowess of the Romans

Our Geography topic will also be exploring the nature of perspective and reality as we study the local area of Preston Candover. Our topic title will be 'What is unique about our local area?' Children will be starting off their geographical enquiry by exploring knowledge of Europe, before honing in on counties and the local sphere. We will study local land use and issues local to the area to understand where different groups of people would be best suited to live.

Love Hope Justice

In the second part of the term we will journey back in time two thousand years to dive into the history of the Roman Empire and its impact on British society at the time. Children will learn the key dates and geographical spread of the infamous empire and how it positively and negatively affected the country.

Science this term will be beginning with another topic that touches upon the surreal: magnets. Children will learn about attraction and repulsion and how this occurs in a realm not visible to the naked eye. During investigative stages children will explore what affects magnetic forces.

In the second half of the term will be returning to classifying living things, life cycles and environmental changes. Children will be learning about classification flow diagrams and keys, food chains and nutrients and metamorphosis before moving on to the impact of human activity on the natural environment.

Maths – Robins will begin their year’s journey into maths by revisiting and extending their knowledge of place value and mental addition and subtraction. Children will then move on to deepening their knowledge of geometry and shape. This fun part of the first half term will see children doing more hands-on activities to understand the properties of 2D and 3D forms. This topic will later be revisiting in their DT lessons as they use what they have learnt to build a roman chariot. Later in the term, the class will explore multiplication and division and begin to explore the times tables in greater depth. Robins class will be able to fully embrace their use of ‘My Maths’ and ‘Times Table Rock Stars’ both at school and at home.

PSHE – ‘What strengths, skills and interests do we have?’ This rather splendid question will enable us to self-reflect in an honest and open way to learn about being kind to ourselves and recognizing achievements of both those around us and within ourselves. Children will be learning about how to approach setbacks and refrain unproductive thinking into positive and pro-active reasoning. Later in the term children will link these ideas with the topic of being a good friend and how this has an impact on collective wellbeing. Children will learn about the types of words and actions that have positive and constructive effects on social situations.

In PE this term, we will be focusing on two main activities: *Tag Rugby* and *Gym - Shape and Hockey and Dance - The Romans*. For *Tag Rugby*, students will learn to move with speed, both with and without the ball, and begin to make high passes to avoid defenders. They will develop their ability to use speed and space to evade opponents, pass backwards in both directions (sometimes on the move), and effectively tag the person with the ball while also marking players who do not have the ball. These skills will build their overall agility and understanding of the game’s tactics.

In *Gym - Shape*, the focus will be on body control and kinaesthetic awareness. Children will share ideas and give positive feedback to themselves and others, using both floor and apparatus to practice good body control. They will work alone and with partners to create, repeat, and improve sequences of linked actions, enhancing their ability to place and align body parts correctly.

In *Hockey*, students will learn how to hold a hockey stick and which side to use. They will practice the simple push pass to teammates and dribbling the ball while keeping it close using the correct side of the stick. Speed will be emphasized as they dribble the ball into space, maintain defensive pressure until possession is gained, and attempt to score within the designated scoring area.

Dance - The Romans will allow students to explore a range of movement and dance phrases in different formations such as unison and canon, both with partners and in groups. They will respond imaginatively to stimuli related to character, music, and story, performing clear and fluent dances that show sensitivity to the ideas presented. They will work in small groups to create dances, responding to music to express a variety of moods and feelings.

In Computing this term, we will be diving into two fascinating topics: Connecting Computers and Stop-frame Animation. For the first half of the term, under the topic Connecting Computers, children will develop an understanding of how digital devices function and their roles in our daily lives. We will explore input and output devices, discussing how they interact within digital systems. The children will learn how these devices can transform the way we work, enhancing productivity and communication. A key part of this topic will involve explaining how computer networks operate to share information and recognizing the physical components that make up these networks. Through hands-on activities, students will discover how digital devices can be interconnected, gaining a comprehensive view of the digital world.

Love Hope Justice

In the second half of the term, our focus will shift to the creative world of Stop-frame Animation. Students will learn that animation is essentially a sequence of drawings or photographs that create the illusion of movement. They will relate this animated movement to a series of images and will plan and create their own animations. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of working consistently and carefully throughout the animation process. Students will also learn to review and improve their animations, understanding the impact of adding other media to enhance their projects. By the end of the term, they will have created their own animated sequences, showcasing their creativity and technical skills.

RE - In the first half of the term, our topic is *Making Choices*, with a focus on the concept of temptation. The children will begin by inquiring into the idea of temptation, accurately describing what it means and how it can affect decision-making. We will contextualize this by examining how Christians believe that Jesus was tempted, using stories from the Bible to illustrate these events. The children will evaluate why Christians think it is important to know that Jesus faced temptation, reflecting on the significance of these stories in Christian faith. Through creative expression, students will communicate their own responses to the concept of temptation, sharing personal insights and experiences. Finally, they will apply their understanding by recognizing and describing situations in which someone might be tempted, discussing strategies for making positive choices.

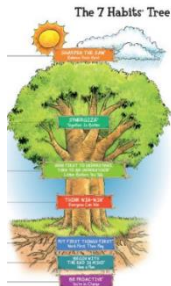
In the second half of the term, we will focus on *Mary, Mother of God*, delving into the concept of holiness. The children will start by inquiring into what it means to be holy, accurately describing this key concept. We will then contextualize this by exploring how many Christians demonstrate their belief in Mary's holiness, looking at various traditions and practices. The children will evaluate the value of Mary as holy to many Christians, understanding her significance within the faith. They will creatively communicate their own responses to the concept of holiness, expressing their thoughts and feelings through various mediums. Finally, they will apply their ideas about holiness to real-life examples, recognizing and describing instances where they perceive holiness in the world around them.

In French we will focus on *C'est mon anniversaire*. The children will learn about the position of France within the French-speaking world through map work, which will provide a geographical context to their language learning. They will revisit some simple questions and responses, including asking and answering about their name, feelings, where they live, and their age. We will introduce numbers past 12 up to 31, enabling the children to discuss their birth dates. Phonics will be explicitly taught, focusing on the sounds *ch*, *ou*, *on*, and *oi*. In grammar, we will cover simple question forms, verbs, and pronouns.

In the second half of the term, our topic will be *La surprise de Handa*. Through the picture book *La surprise de Handa*, children will discover a new range of simple nouns, many of which are cognates, making them easier to learn and remember. They will revise the position of adjectives in sentences and practice creating their own descriptions. We will also have a fun and interactive activity where the children will taste the fruits mentioned in the book and use positive and negative sentence constructions to describe whether they liked them or not, using phrases like *j'adore* and *je déteste*. We will also explore French Christmas traditions. In grammar, we will focus on simple nouns, noun/adjective order, positive and negative sentence constructions (*j'aime* and *je n'aime pas*), and the definite articles (*le*, *la*, and *l'*).

This term in Music, students will focus on learning to play the ukulele. They will begin by learning the names of the strings and their relative pitches, practicing both strumming and plucking techniques. We will explore steady beat and rhythm in 2, 3, and 4 metre, helping students keep time and play in sync with others. Additionally, students will identify other related string instruments, broadening their musical knowledge. These skills will enhance their musical abilities and understanding of rhythm and melody, setting the stage for further musical exploration and enjoyment.

Love Hope Justice



'Leader in Me' Throughout the Curriculum

We will keep integrating the '7 Habits of Highly Effective People' into the Robins curriculum to equip our pupils with essential leadership and life skills for the 21st century. The children have done a fantastic job describing and exploring the 7 habits in greater depth last term. For this term, we will be looking to embed the habits into games and activities within our lessons to explore each one in more detail in different contexts. The children are developing a keen reflective awareness of the use of the habits.

Home-learning - Maths and English home-learning will be assigned on Fridays, including Times Table Rockstar challenges and 'My Maths' activities. Please continue to support your child with reading at home and encourage them to complete an activity in their reading record, as the Story Wings program is ongoing. It would be lovely to see lots of Reading Records coming my way as we move through the term!

For this term, Mrs Hulme will be covering Robins class for one afternoon and Mr Garrod, HMS Specialist Music Teacher, will be teaching instrumental lessons. PE lessons will be happening on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. For this reason, children should not wear earrings on Wednesday and Friday. Please remind your child to bring their fresh new PE kits in every Monday. I look forward to beginning our term together and thank you all for your support. If you wish to discuss anything about this term, then please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Aston (Robins class teacher)

Love Hope Justice