



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Kingfishers Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn term! I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful summer break together. It is so lovely to be back with the children in Kingfisher Class and I am pleased to share the extremely exciting term of learning with you all.



Our Big Questions for Geography this term is: Are all volcanoes the same?

Geography- This term in Geography, we will be discovering all about volcanoes and in particular the volcanoes in Indonesia. Throughout this unit, the children will improve their knowledge and understanding of the similarities and differences between volcanoes to explain how they move and affect people. Throughout, they will embed accurate knowledge of the location of each continent and ocean, identify the human and physical features of Asia and Indonesia and describe the pattern across the continent using the eight points of a compass. They will also discover the global distribution of volcanoes along plate boundaries, locating and describing where and what caused the volcanic of the Anak Krakatoa eruption. They will then describe the material that erupted from Anak Krakatoa and explain the causes and impacts of the tsunami. They will transfer this knowledge through looking at their volcano safe school from a different viewpoint; through observing, measuring and recording the risks in a few areas to decide where the riskiest area is and how to reduce the risks around school. All children will gather different methods for predicting and preparing for a volcanic eruption and research which methods were used in Indonesia and deciding which was most effective justifying their reasons why. Finally, they will end this unit by comparing Indonesia to USA and Iceland to identify similarities and differences in a country's approach to reducing the impacts of a volcanic eruption.

Our Big Questions for History this term is: What legacy are you creating?

History- This term in History the children will be studying the Ancient Greeks. All children will gain an understanding of the way of life, beliefs and achievements of the Ancient Greeks. They will also gain an understanding of the scope and range of Greek ideas, achievements and ways of life that are still current or influential today and have also been influential in past eras. Kingfisher class will have the opportunity to become historians through collecting historical information in interesting and varied ways. They will look in depth at Ancient Greeks influences on: politics, language, architecture, sport, theatre and performance and ideas and beliefs. They will present their findings through drama, art galleries, digital presentations posters and reports. By the end of the unit, all children will be able to answer the big question with confidence and design a set of stamps, which represent the Greek legacy.

English- This term in English, we will begin by reading Macbeth by William Shakespeare adapted by Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross, which I know the children will thoroughly enjoy. All children will begin by finding out more about William Shakespeare followed by the plays he has written. Kingfisher class will explore the play in different ways, through animation, retellings and numerous drama activities. Throughout they will be writing directors scenes, a soliloquy, news reports about King Duncan's death, character descriptions, letters, diary entries, 'A Guide for Kings and Queens' for a young prince or princess and finally spell poetry inspired by the witches. This will then be followed by reading a variety of Greek myths and 'Who let the God's Out' by Maz Evans to link with our Ancient Greek topic. By the end of these units, children will be much more confident at writing setting and character descriptions to engage their audience with the historical narrative and Greek myths they create. The children will be given opportunities to see outstanding pieces of writing, have the text types modelled to them or co-constructed as a class so they feel confident enough with the planning, drafting, editing and finally publishing process. We ensure that all children write for a purpose throughout the year but we get a real opportunity during remembrance time when we read 'Where The

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Poppies Now Grow' written by Hilary Robinson and is illustrated by Martin Impey. This story is told in rhyme about two childhood friends whose games about war become real as The Great War rages around them. By the of the unit, I would like the children to create a memorial remembrance poetry picture book to inform all ages. We will then hold a readers' theatre in our outdoor classroom, so that groups of children can perform the poem to each other.

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- In Science lessons this term, we will be studying all about 'sound'. Kingfisher class will become scientists through making strong predictions and setting up numerous experiments around sound but ensuring they do so through fair testing. They will explore different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions surrounding the wonders of sound, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary. Kingfisher class will take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate and will record the data they gather through using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs. To complete the process, they will report their findings through using scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute their ideas or arguments. All children will be able to identify the way sound is made through vibration in a range of different musical instruments from around the world; and find out how the pitch and volume of sounds can be changed. They will explore how the pitch and volume of simple instruments and objects changes and relate this to vibrations and explore the ways in which sound is transmitted as vibrations or blocked by using materials that absorb, eg ear muffs and soundproofing walls. All children will have the opportunity to use data loggers to collect data and test their ideas. To end our Science learning this term, we will be using the story of Helen Keller and how she learned to speak.

Computing-We will begin computing this year by learning about the World Wide Web as a communication tool. First, all children will learn how we find information on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work (including how they select and rank results) and what influences searching, and through comparing different search engines. They will then investigate different methods of communication, before focusing on internet-based communication. Finally, they will evaluate which methods of internet communication to use for particular purposes. For the second half of the term in computing Kingfisher class will explore the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, all children will learn what variables are, and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. They will then use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard. Children will experiment with variables in an existing project, then modify them, then they will create their own project. Finally, all children will apply their knowledge of variables and design to improve their game in Scratch.

Music- I was incredibly impressed with the musical talent I saw last year. All children have begun to really enjoy singing and performing. This term, Kingfisher class are incredibly lucky and will continue having specialist Music lessons with HIAS, where they will have the opportunity to play and learn more about a range of instruments.

P.S.H.E, RSE 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 regular circle times and PSHE lessons they will be able to build up stronger friendships, through respecting other's feelings, opinions and values. In this term we will be focussing on our question 'How can the media influence people?' and the British value, that everyone has the personal freedom to express their views and beliefs online safely and that each individual is responsible for their own behaviour online. All children will explore how the media, including online experiences, can affect people's wellbeing. They will discover that mixed messages in the media exist (including about health, the news, and different groups of people) and that these can influence opinions and decisions. They will also learn how text and images can be manipulated or invented; so, we will ensure children have the strategies to respond to and if necessary, report information viewed online which is upsetting, frightening or untrue. They will explore how not everything should be shared online or social media and that there are rules about this, including the distribution of images. By the end of this unit children will be able to recognise unsafe or suspicious content

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online and know what to do about it. They will learn how to make decisions about the content they view online or in the media and know if it is appropriate for their age range.

Art- The artist we will be studying this term is Sophilos, who is an Ancient Greek Attic potter and vase painter. Throughout their art session all children will get a stronger understanding of the origin of Greek pottery and the importance of Greek pottery to archaeologists and historians today. They will discover what designs would be found on Greek pottery e.g: patterned borders, geometric shapes, black figures, action and from this design and sketch a Greek pot or plate using traditional Ancient Greek colour. They will explore how Ancient Greeks used mainly earth tones as they would have used natural items that were readily available around them (rocks, minerals, plants). All children will have the opportunity to create a piece of clay pottery, which represents the Greek legacy.

DT- Throughout this DT unit Kingfisher class will be exploring different structures and frames. The children are aiming by the end of the unit to design a model of a building, which would withstand a volcanic eruption, which is linked to our Geography topic. All children will carry out research into user needs and existing products, using surveys, interviews, questionnaires and web-based resources. They will develop a simple design specification to guide the development of their ideas and products, taking account of constraints including time, resources and cost. As well as generating, developing and modelling innovative ideas, through discussion, prototypes and annotated sketches. All children will be encouraged to formulate a clear plan, including a step-by-step list of what needs to be done and lists of resources to be used. They will select from and use appropriate tools to accurately measure, mark out, cut, shape and join construction materials to make frameworks and use decorative techniques suitable for the product they are designing and making. At the end of the unit they will critically evaluate their products against their design specification, intended user and purpose, identifying strengths and areas for development, and carrying out appropriate tests.

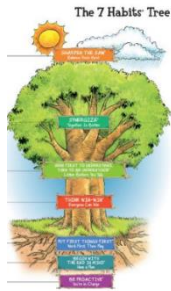
R.E – For the first half of the term the children will be focussing on the topic ‘Belonging’ answering the question ‘What does it mean to be a Muslim? Kingfisher class will learn that there are many practices and beliefs that help Muslims belong to their religion. They will discover the importance of The Five Pillars of Islam in helping Muslims all over the world belong to their religion. Understanding that The Five Pillars are declaring your faith in Allah, prayer, charity, fasting in the month of Ramadan and going on a pilgrimage to Mecca (if you are able to). They will also understand Shahada and Salat are important parts of the Islamic faith.

For the second half of the term Kingfisher class will be focussing on the topic ‘Incarnation- An extraordinary baby’ through understanding how Christians perceive the birth of Jesus. They will explore how Christians believe Jesus was God made into a man. They will read a variety of birth narratives that show that Jesus was the Son of God yet also human and different aspects of the birth narratives highlight this, for example the coming of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary Jesus will be the Son of God or an angel appears to the shepherds telling them that the Lord or Messiah has been born.

French- First French topic is ‘Mon identité’. Kingfisher class will revisit the map of France and the Francophone world, focusing in on places that they know and recognise. They will then move on to considering their own identity, examining vocabulary to describe skin tone and eyes as well as starting to think about nationalities (both in the masculine and feminine and the languages they speak. They combine this information about their family and their likes and dislikes to produce a small biography. Throughout the second French topic pupils will explore the Second World War from a French perspective, conducting research, in French, into the evacuation of children from Paris as the Germans began to advance into France. Children watch parts of the animation *Les grandes, Grandes Vacances* and spent time retelling selected parts of the story in French, using simple conjugation and dictionary skills.

P.E – This term in PE we will be having dance and gymnastics for our indoor PE sessions and basketball and football for our outdoor PE sessions. Our main focus is to ensure we are showing good sportsmanship and using Habits: ‘Think Win Win’ and ‘Synergising’, to ensure everyone feels involved and celebrated in each sport. Please ensure your child is coming to school with the correct school PE kit. We would like the PE kit to come into school every Monday for it to stay in school throughout the week and can be taken home on Friday. We want to make sure the children are prepared with a PE kit in case we need to change PE days short notice and therefore can fully enjoy their PE lessons and the Golden Mile. Many thanks for your support with this.

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'Leader in Me' Throughout the Curriculum

This term, we will continue to embed the '7 habits of highly effective people' through the Kingfishers curriculum to empower our pupils with the leadership and life skills they will need to thrive in the 21st century. The children have now been introduced to all 7 of these habits through various activities and they are regularly referenced throughout the school day through our collective worship, playtimes and in lessons. For example, this may be through group tasks, outdoor activities such as in PE lessons or even after contributions that are given in class discussions. The children in Kingfishers are now beginning to nominate each other for demonstrating the habits which is great to see and we will now be embedding this further through distributing weekly certificates to pupils linked to the 7 habits.

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 checked 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

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