



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Sparrows Year R and I

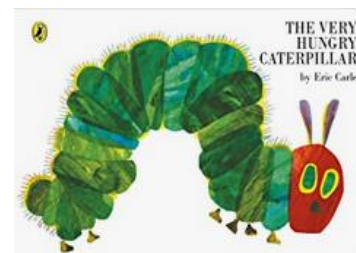
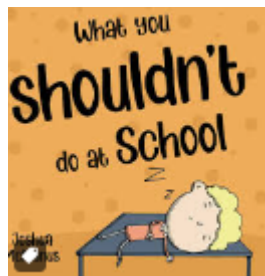
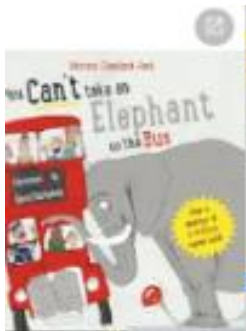
Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed making some lovely festive memories. We hope this newsletter gives you an insight into what your children will be learning over this term.

Our Big Question for the first half of the term is **“What geographical features can we find during a hike?”** followed by **“How does exploring help us learn?”** after half term.

Literacy

The key texts we will explore together in the first half of the term are “You can’t take an elephant on the bus” –Patricia Cleveland Peck, where we will be exploring humorous rhyme, “What you shouldn’t do at school” by Joshua McManus which we will use to write instructions, commands and explanations and “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” which we will use to write a diary of the caterpillars week.



Phonics, Spelling and Reading

Reception children will be moving onto Phase 3 sounds this term and will be learning to apply these in their reading. They will also be learning a new set of tricky words- ones that cannot be sounded out and which they need to be able to read on sight.

Year I will continue to progress throughout phase 5 phonics. They are learning alternative graphemes (ways of writing and reading) familiar phonemes (sounds). The children will also continue to practice automatically reading common exception words. Over the term, we aim to increase the children’s fluency, expression and comprehension as the children apply their phonics to their reading.

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Maths

Reception children will be building on their understanding of numbers to 10 this term. They will be ordering them and looking at how we can achieve the same sum in different ways using adding and subtracting. They will also be using 3D shapes to learn about the concepts of weight.

Year 1 children will be continuing to develop their understanding of place value with 2 digit numbers and knowing what each digit represents. They will compare 2 numbers less than 100 and talk about the difference and numbers in between. They will be adding by counting on and taking away by counting back, as well as counting in multiples of 2's and 10's and exploring odd and even numbers. Year 1 children will also be exploring weight, comparing weight using direct comparison and ordering sets of objects by their weight. They will also investigate 3D shapes and $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ turns.

Understanding the World (EYFS) / RE (Year 1)

For Religious Education, our focus will be *people Jesus met* during the first half of the term with the key concept of *change* (love). The children will express creatively their own responses to *change*, recognise simple examples of how *change* affects their own lives and explore why Christians value the idea that Jesus could *change* lives. After half term our focus will be *Passover* with the key concept of *remembering*. The children will recognise ways in which Jews *remember* the Passover story and recognise how their responses to *remembering* can relate to their own lives and the lives of other people.

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

During the first half term, our geography focus will be building on from the children's learning of the UK by exploring a contrasting place, which will be Utah. We will be using a lovely text-Hike by Peter Oswald for this.



Throughout the half term, Year 1 children will use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of our school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of our surrounding environment. They will also be investigating geographical similarities and differences between Preston Candover and Utah.

Year R children will be building on their learning from last term about “where we live” to looking at what features are in the village where we go to school.

At the end of the unit all of the children will go on a walk through Preston Candover to find out what human and physical features are in the village. Year 1 children will then be creating their own maps following the walk.

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

After half term we will move onto our history topic which will be ***Moon to Mars.***

For Year 1 children this will involve exploring a significant national event beyond living memory as they find out more about the Apollo 11 mission to the moon and how it was part of a larger space race that continues to this day.

The children will be building on their learning from last term about how things change over time by looking at how space travel has changed over the years. We all also be looking at the British astronauts who first landed on the moon and the traits that are common to astronauts.

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Year R children will be using the lovely book “Whatever Next” and will be role playing astronauts and space travel as well as thinking about what they would take with them on a trip to the moon.

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

Our science focus for the first half of term will be animal lifecycles. Over the term the children will be looking at animal timelines, how animals grow until they reach maturity and then don't grow anymore and how animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. The children will also learn about how exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food and hygiene are important to maintain good health and wellbeing. The children will also be finding out how animals get their food and that habitats are places where animals and plants live.

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

For the first half term, art will be our focus with the topic concentric circles. The children will be looking at the work of Kandinsky and Hilma Af Klint and using their work as a stimulus for creating their own concentric circle inspired art.

After half term, our focus will be DT and our focus will be mechanisms, wheels and axles. The children will be exploring how wheels and axles work and will then use the knowledge gained to design and make their own vehicle with wheels and an axle.

Physical development/PE

This term we will be developing our throwing and catching skills in games, playing a variety of games where we have to travel with a ball, exploring different shapes in gym and line dancing

MFL (French)

Over the term, Reception children will be listening to familiar stories such as the Gruffalo read in French, and begin to learn French numbers and start to count in French. Year 1 children will be learning the names of different farm animals in French.

Computing

Throughout the first half term, Reception children will use programmable toys such as the remote controlled cars in their play. Year 1 will be exploring digital writing by using the keys on a keyboard to type and edit as well as use tools on 'Word' to change the font, size and colour of typing.

All children will continue to develop their understanding of E-Safety - how to use technology safely and respectfully and the importance of keeping personal information private.

Music

In our music sessions we will be looking at how rhythm describes the mixture of long and short sounds which are performed on top of the pulse, exploring changes in tempo and pitch and listening to, copying and repeating a simple rhythm or melody.

PSHE

Over the first half term, our PSHE focus will be *how do we recognise our feelings?* This links well with our Leader in Me sessions where we explore recognising different feelings, talk about how feelings can affect people in their bodies and behaviour and discuss ways to manage big feelings. After half term we focus on - *what helps us stay safe?* In this topic we will explore how rules and restrictions help to keep us safe in the context of basic road, fire, cycle and water safety as well

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as in relation to medicines/ household products and online. We will also talk about how to tell a trusted adult if they are worried for themselves or others, worried that something is unsafe or if they come across something that scares or concerns them.

Home Learning

Each week the phonic words that we focus on in our class sessions will continue to be sent home along with the word sheets that accompany your child's Collins Ebook. There is a very strong link between reading and academic success therefore it is really important for the children to log in and read their assigned book at least 3 times a week to support your child to develop confidence and fluency in reading. Please write in your child's reading diary at least 3 times a week. The Ebook will continue to be assigned every Friday after our 3 reads throughout the week.

Year 1 children will continue to have home learning set weekly on a Friday, which will be in their home learning books.

Storywings

As outlined in the reading meeting last term, Storywings is our whole school approach to promoting reading for pleasure, and encourages children to engage in their reading and try different authors and genres, with a special badge rewarded on completion. In addition, the children will be encouraged to read different genres of books and review them by completing an activity from their reading record book. The children will need to read or share with an adult 3 books from 4 genres over the year; fiction, non-fiction, traditional tales, and poetry/rhyme. In total, 12 books read and 12 completed activities will earn them a Storywings badge, rewarded twice a year on World Book Day and at the end of the summer term. We hope that you will support your child in working towards their badge this term to enable us to award some before the end of the Spring term.

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 and Mrs Heather Hulme

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