



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

## Woodpeckers Year 2 and 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of our Spring Term in Woodpeckers Class. We hope you had a fantastic holiday filled with family fun and laughter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for my lovely cards and presents. This year we are looked forward to not only developing our Leader in Me Habits, but also reflecting on our values of Love, Hope and Justice, which underpin everything.

### **Big Enquiry Question (Spring 1): 'How do we adapt to survive?'**

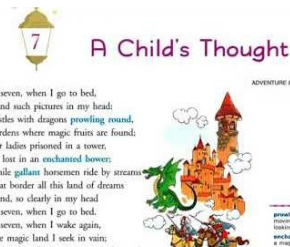
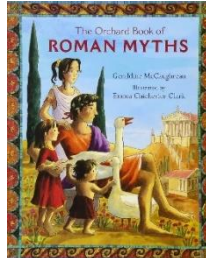
This will be driven by our science unit, 'Animals and their Habitats', where we will be looking at adaptations of different animals in different habitats. This question will also relate to our History unit (The Rise and Fall of Rome) and our RE unit (Purim in the Jewish faith: identity)

### **Big Enquiry Question (Spring 2): 'What lies beneath our feet?'**

This will be driven by our Science unit, 'Rocks and Soil'. Our Geography (rivers) and our PSHE (looking after the world) units will also help drive us in this enquiry.

### **English**

The texts we will be looking at in detail in the first half of the Spring Term are:



### **The Orchard Book of Roman Myths**

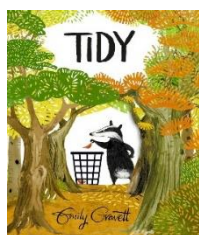
### **'A Child's Thought' by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Whilst looking at Roman Myths, the children will be building up their skills towards writing and performing their own myth. To do so, the children will be exploring character and scene descriptions, understanding plot lines using our story mountain and be introduced to writing in a script style. The children will be revisiting their poetry writing skills. This time, we will be looking at appropriate times to move to the next line and at how important it is to write in a different style to that of a narrative. We have now finished our 'bridge to spelling' units and are starting on our straight Little Wandle Spelling Scheme. The children will be learning about alternative spellings such as words which start with 'kn', 'gn', 'rh' and 'wr'. We will also be recapping contracted words and using/writing commands.

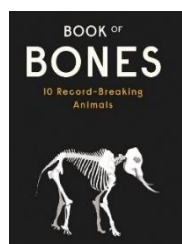
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The texts we will be looking at in the second half of the Spring Term are:



**'Tidy' by Emily Gravett**



**The Book of Bones: 10 Record Breaking Animals' by Sam Brewster**

The children will be reflecting upon issues we learned about previously in Year 1 and 2 such as caring for the environment and helping our planet. As we read, we will be keeping in mind our purpose of writing persuasive letter to Pete the badger in role as one of the forest animals. To achieve this, the children will explore persuasive like rhetorical questions, dramatic over statement and expression of opinion. We will be exploring the world of ancient bones through descriptions in 'The Big Book of Bones'. The children will be using conjunctions to build clues to create their own 'Who am I? text where the answer is not revealed until the end! Year 3s will be introduced to co-ordinating and subordinating clauses and Year 2s will be developing their understanding and usage of past and present verbs in both the perfect and imperfect form.

## Maths

### Year 2

This term, Year 2 children will focus on multiplication and division, learning to write and calculate with the symbols  $\times$ ,  $\div$ , and  $=$ . They will understand that multiplication can be done in any order, but division cannot, and will solve problems using recall of facts, arrays, doubling, halving, and clever counting. They will also use place value and number facts to solve addition and subtraction problems, including understanding unit patterns when crossing tens and adding two 2-digit numbers. In subtraction, they will explore counting up and counting back to find differences, with a focus on numbers up to 100. The children will also learn mathematical vocabulary to describe positions, directions, and movements, and will explore 2-D and 3-D shapes, recognising their properties and sorting them based on properties such as edges, faces, and vertices.

### Year 3

This term, Year 3 will focus on understanding the relationship between division and multiplication, such as how  $21 \div 3 = 7$  is the inverse of  $7 \times 3 = 21$ , and will become confident with the 3 and 4 times tables. They will solve problems involving missing numbers and scaling, using their knowledge of multiplication and division. The children will practice adding and subtracting any pair of 2-digit numbers mentally, as well as adding and subtracting multiples of 1s, 10s, and 100s to/from 3-digit numbers. They will also learn to identify and describe right angles ( $90^\circ$ ) in shapes and turns, and recognize angles greater than or less than  $90^\circ$ . Additionally, the children will draw 2-D shapes and make 3-D shapes, recognising and describing them in various orientations.

## RE (Religious Education)

In the first half of the spring term Woodpeckers will explore the concept of identity in their RE lessons, starting by describing what identity means and how it is understood by those of the Jewish faith. They will learn how Jewish people express their identity during the celebration of 'Purim', understanding the significance of this festival. The children will also evaluate the importance of identity to Jewish and reflect on the value of identity in their own lives and communities. Through creative expression, the children will communicate their personal responses to identity, exploring how it shapes who they are. They will then apply their learning by recognizing how their own

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identity affects their lives and the lives of others. This exploration will help them understand the role of identity in both their personal lives and in the broader context of different cultures.

Following the February half term, Woodpeckers will be learning about the role of symbols in religious traditions, focusing on how they are used in Christianity. They will inquire into the meaning and significance of symbols, describing how they are used to represent important ideas and beliefs within the Christian faith. The children will evaluate the value of symbols to Christians, reflecting on how symbols can also have personal meaning and value in their own lives and for others. They will communicate their thoughts and feelings about symbols creatively, using artwork, stories, or other forms of expression to show their understanding.

### **History**

This half term, Year 2 and 3 children will embark on an exciting journey back in time to explore the mighty Roman Empire and its invasion of Britain! They'll learn about the vastness of the Roman Empire and how its influence spread far and wide, transforming countries, including Britain. The children will explore the incredible changes the Romans made to British life, including the idea of Romanization, and understand what remained the same during and after their rule. As part of their learning, they will practice Habit 6: Synergizing, working together to share ideas and piece together the changes and continuities in history over time. With teamwork, creativity, and fun, they'll develop their understanding of why significant events, like the Roman invasion, have shaped contemporary Britain.

### **Geography**

In the second half of the Spring Term our class will dive into the world of rivers; learning all about what rivers are and where some local rivers can be found. They will explore the importance of rivers like the Selbourne River and the River Test, discovering how these waterways shape the surrounding environments and communities. The children will also learn about the forces of erosion, transportation, and deposition, and how these processes create landforms like V-shaped valleys, interlocking spurs, meanders, and oxbow lakes. As they explore how these landforms form, the children will practice perseverance and resilience, especially when they encounter challenging concepts about how rivers change the landscape over time. By the end of the unit, they'll understand why people have always been drawn to live near rivers, and how these physical geographical features play a vital role in contemporary life.

### **Science**

This half term, Woodpeckers class will be learning all about habitats and how animals have adapted to be well suited to the environments in which they live. They will explore the interdependence between animals and plants within habitats, and how different species rely on each other for survival, particularly through food chains. The children will also learn that food chains begin with producers, like green plants. As part of their investigation, they will look at plant adaptations for survival, focusing on the need for water, light, and protection from being eaten. They will also explore how different habitats are affected by environmental changes and how human activity impacts the environment. Developing their scientific skills, the children will plan experiments, draw conclusions from their results, and evaluate the reliability and validity of their findings.

In the second half of the term will be learning about rocks and soils and continuing to build on their scientific evaluation skills. They will explore the different types of rocks, learning about igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks; understanding how these rocks are formed from minerals, crystals, or the remains of ancient organisms. The children will also investigate the properties of rocks, including their hardness, porosity, and reactions to chemicals, and discover how these properties depend on how each rock was formed. As part of their learning, they will study the structure of soils, understanding how soil is made up of small rock particles and organic materials like humus. Throughout this unit, the children will develop their independence in designing

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experiments and continue to practice evaluating results, helping them become more confident in their scientific thinking and problem-solving.

### **Art**

Throughout the first half term, Year 2 and 3 will discover the creative world of shadow art, inspired by the talented artist Vincent Bal. They will experiment with sketching and shaping their own shadows, bringing their unique ideas to life in their final designs.

### **DT (Design Technology)**

After the February half term, the children will begin with the end in mind as they work on creating a moving congratulations card using sliders and levers. They will explore a variety of mechanisms, evaluate products with moving parts, and investigate materials to help inform their design choices. With a focus on understanding the purpose and users of their cards, they will plan and generate ideas for their final design, incorporating artistic elements into the decoration. Finally, they will apply their chosen mechanism, evaluate their finished cards, and reflect on how well their designs meet the intended purpose

### **Computing**

This half of the spring term, the children will explore creating digital music by experimenting with rhythm patterns, pitch, and duration on a computer. They will learn that music is made up of a sequence of notes and will refine their musical patterns, respecting both the technology and each other while using the equipment. The children will also practice saving their work in a file and reopening it, developing their skills in both music and technology use responsibly.

### **Music**

This half term, the children will explore the role of improvisation and composition in playing in an orchestra. They will experiment with creating rhythms using instruments and their voices, while also learning how song lyrics can influence the melody. Additionally, the children will gain an understanding of how composers improvise and how they write and record musical compositions.

After half term, the children will discover more musical styles, learning to identify key elements of music. Year 2 will focus on understanding timbre (the character of sound), texture (the layers in music), and structure (how music is ordered in sections). Year 3 will develop their musical skills by confidently finding the pulse in songs and beginning to understand formal notation, including crotchets and rests.

### **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic)**

In the first half term back, the children will focus on staying safe and understanding the importance of truthfulness in their lives. They will learn how rules, such as road, fire, and online safety, help keep them protected and how to recognise risky situations in both familiar and unfamiliar environments. The children will also discuss how to resist pressure to do something that feels unsafe or uncomfortable, including the importance of not keeping secrets in these situations. Lastly, they will learn that not everything they see online is true, and people can pretend to be someone they are not.

After half term, the children will discuss and learn how we can look after each other and the world, learning about kindness, cooperation, and responsibility. They will explore how their actions can affect others and understand the importance of being polite and courteous in both play and work. The class will also discuss their responsibilities inside and outside the classroom, as well as how people, animals, and the environment need to be cared for.

### **French**

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In French this Spring Term, the children will learn the names of farm animals and explore how animal sounds differ in French compared to English. They will also delve into the cultural aspects of language by listening to and comparing the sounds that animals make in both languages. As part of their learning, they will enjoy the book *Aboies George*, which will help reinforce vocabulary and introduce them to more animal-related phrases in French.

### **PE (Physical Education)**

In PE this half term, the children will learn the basics of dodgeball, focusing on attacking and defending. They will develop techniques to successfully play the game, following rules and collaborating as a team by celebrating the strengths of all. The children will also practice finding useful spaces to support teammates and work on keeping or winning back possession of the ball. In dance, the children will explore 'The Explorers', creating sequences by linking movements with control and coordination. They will perform group dances using canon and unison, adjusting rhythm, speed, level, and direction. The children will also apply compositional ideas to convey emotions through dance, responding to music to express different moods and feelings.

After half term, the children will continue developing their net and wall game skills, focusing on teamwork and communication through Habit 6: Synergising. They will practise passing accurately, making decisions about positioning, and using chest and shoulder passes to work together in attack and defence. The children will also learn to create space, mark opponents, and follow the rules of the game to help their team. To finish the term, the children will work on developing control and flexibility in gymnastics, exploring movements such as tensing, relaxing, curling, and stretching. They will perform linked sequences with changes in speed, direction, and body shapes, including jumping and landing with control.

### **Home Learning**

Please continue to read daily with your child, ensuring they practise verbally answering questions about the text. Home work is due in each Thursday and given fresh on Friday. If your child is absent Thursday and/or Friday, please ensure they are pro-active in asking for any home learning they have missed. Home learning is to be completed as per our home learning policy and children are encouraged to look after their home learning books just as they do with their books at school. Please ensure all children write in pencil.

### **Year 2**

Year 2 will receive English and Maths home learning on alternative weeks. Occasionally they may receive extra spelling home learning to aid them in the transition from phonics to our spelling scheme. They will receive spelling words weekly which they are to practise as part of their home learning. There are lots of fun ways that can do this. We have stuck in some ideas into the front and back covers of their books. Spelling tests are each Friday. Year 2s may also wish (are encouraged) to access their TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars) regularly. However, at this stage we would just expect them to carry out activities learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

### **Year 3**

Year 3 will receive English and Maths home learning weekly. They will receive spelling words weekly which they are to practice. There are lots of fun ways that can do this. We have stuck in some ideas into the front and back covers of their books. Spelling tests are each Friday. Maths home learning may be set on MyMaths, Times Tables Rock Stars or in the home learning book.

Thank you for your continued support. I cannot wait to see what 2025 brings for Woodpeckers!

Yours sincerely,  
Miss L Wells (Woodpeckers Class Teacher)

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