



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: 01256 389278

Email: admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Robins Year 4

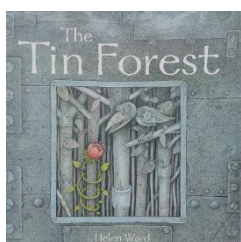
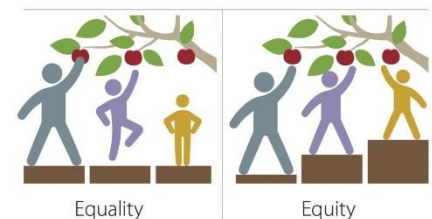


Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing everybody a very Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to Spring term in Robins class. I do hope a relaxing and well-deserved Christmas break was had by all. We have yet another exciting term lined up for Robins class with so many wonderful opportunities and projects for pupils to look forward to. Please read on to find out more about what we will be up to this term...

Our Big Enquiry Question for the first half term: What is the difference between fairness, equality and equity?

Geography- We begin this term with our Geography unit, which involves an economic study of the Ivory Coast. Through this, we will identify where in the world Africa and the Ivory Coast is and will use its geographical features to describe what it is like. Pupils will learn what connects us to the Ivory Coast and identify where cocoa is grown, who grows it and how chocolate gets from the Ivory Coast to the UK. Pupils will develop an understanding about what it is like in a chocolate factory and therefore answer the question 'what is unique about chocolate?' This topic naturally links to 'Fairtrade fortnight' which will take place later in the term and as such pupils will begin to learn about some of the issues regarding fairness, equity and equality within chocolate production.



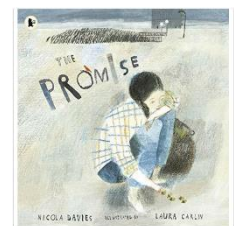
English/PSHE- English lessons this term will link with our geography learning as we begin by reading the text 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward. This wonderful book tells the story of a lone old man who lives up his grey and metallic world by creating his very own forest that yields some interesting results. Children will write vivid setting descriptions of a forest, contrasting its atmosphere during the day and night, and tailoring their language to appeal to visitors. This is our PSHE focus for this

half-term too as we learn how our choices can make a difference to others and the environment. Throughout this unit of work, pupils will learn how to write a short news report about an element of climate change.

Robins class will then move on to looking the 'The Promise', Nicola Davis. This is another well-written and beautifully illustrated picture book about hope and the power we have to transform our world. Throughout this English unit, pupils will consider the structure of the narrative and how cause and effect is related to drive the plot forwards. They will then write their own story before concluding the unit by writing a contrast poem.

Throughout Spring Term, Year 4 will begin to look at how to link paragraphs effectively in writing to improve the flow of writing to include using fronted adverbials and commas accurately.

We will all continue to work hard on our spellings and handwriting regularly throughout the week.



Love Hope Justice



Henri Rousseau

Art- Linked to the topic of environmental change and sustainability, our Artist for this term is Henri Rousseau. Pupils will learn a little about the artist and explore different examples of his work in order to identify features typical of his art. In particular, pupils will explore how to use texture and colour to create a mood that contrasts his- the result of human activity on the Earth. Pupils will first create a collage and then build on this by designing and creating an applique scene that links to an illustration from 'The Promise' text studied in English.



Science - In Science lessons this term, pupils will study states of matter. Through a range of different inquiries and investigations, pupils will discover the properties of solids, liquids and gases and explain what happens when they change state. Pupils will discover the temperatures of melting, freezing, boiling and condensation of water. Later in the term, we will shift our focus to plants and their food production. Children will learn how plants make their own food through photosynthesis and understand their importance in ecosystems. We will also explore the different ways plants adapt to their environments, ensuring they thrive in various conditions.

DT - Our Design and Technology lessons this term will focus on food technology. The children will learn about the importance of balanced diets and how food choices affect our health and well-being. They will conduct taste tests, explore the sensory qualities of different ingredients, and design their own healthy snack. Through this process, they will consider factors such as nutrition, taste, and presentation. They will also learn about packaging design, using their creativity and practical skills to create an appealing and functional product.

RE - In RE lessons during the first half-term, pupils will focus on the key concept, symbol. During this unit, pupils will understand how trees can be used as a symbol, what they could symbolise as well as the importance of trees to those of Christian and Hindu faith. During the second half-term, pupils will move on to looking at the concept of 'ritual' and look at how the Paschal Candle is used by many Christians during Baptism as a reminder that we are crucified and resurrected with Christ.

Maths - This term in Maths, the children will continue to develop their understanding of key concepts in multiplication, division, fractions, and geometry. In the first half of the term, the focus will be on multiplication and division, with activities designed to strengthen fluency in times tables and efficient calculation strategies. We will continue to learn and practise our times table facts throughout the remainder of the term with the aim of ensuring pupils can quickly recall all times table facts (Up to 12x) by the end of Year 4. Robins class will be able to continue using Times Tables Rock Stars at home to help practise these facts, alongside 'My Maths', which can be accessed from both home and school. I would also recommend 'Hit the Button' which is another great online game.

In the second half of the term, the focus will shift to fractions and decimals. The children will learn about unit and non-unit fractions, find equivalent fractions, and simplify them where possible. They will also explore the connection between fractions and decimals, rehearse equivalence, and work on adding and subtracting decimal numbers. Additionally, we will delve into geometry, identifying lines of symmetry, constructing polygons, and learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Love Hope Justice

Our Big Question for the second half- term: What Makes Something or Someone 'Great'?



History- During the second half-term, Robins class will be travelling back in time again, this time to focus on one particular individual- Alfred the Great. Pupils will identify key information about Alfred as a person, they will explore aspects of his reign and legacy and will build upon their previous learning about the Anglo-Saxons. Pupils will become historians and use contemporary and later opinions about King Alfred and his reign to inquire whether he truly was 'great'. The topic will equip pupils with the ability to describe, with examples, how King Alfred's reign had consequences for Britain and use evidence to decide whether these were good or bad consequences for Britain and how they contribute to King Alfred's reputation.

Computing- During computing lessons this term, pupils will firstly develop their understanding of desktop publishing. They will learn how to edit text and layout, choose appropriate page settings, add content to a desktop publishing publication. They will learn how different layouts can suit different purposes. Robins class will then move on to learning about branching databases- this will build on their previous knowledge of classification keys in Science from last half-term.

Music- Mr Garat from the Hampshire Music Service will continue to teach Robins music lessons every Tuesday afternoon and I believe it is time for the recorders this term!

French- In French lessons this year, Robins class will continue to be taught by Mrs Wilson on a Tuesday afternoon. This half-term, Robins will be introduced to shape vocabulary and will use prepositions of place in an art project linked to Sonia Deluanay.

P.E – P.E lessons this term will usually take place on a **Monday** and **Wednesday** afternoons, however please ensure that your child comes to school on a Monday with a full PE kit and ensure it stays in school all week, just in case we choose to do extra PE sessions within the week or swap PE lessons for various reasons. PE lessons this term will include dance, gymnastics, football and netball. In addition to the timetabled PE lessons, children will continue having the opportunity to complete their golden mile at other times during the week. Of course, this is weather dependent.

Home-learning- home- learning will be set weekly on a **Friday and due in the following Thursday**. Homework will continue to be set either online via portals like MyMaths or will be paper based. This ensures pupils receive the opportunity to practise handwriting and spellings in a book at home some of the time. Tasks will be set on objectives covered within the classroom but please do encourage your child to discuss their homework with me before the deadline if they are finding it tricky- I am more than happy to provide an additional example or talk through the first question to get them started!

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. In Robins class, we are determined to try and get as many children as possible achieving their story wings badge this year so any encouragement you can give at home to support this would be appreciated.

Robins Celebration of Learning

We would love to invite you into school on the morning of **Friday 17th January from 9.15am to 9.40am** to help us celebrate the learning of Robins class. With a focus on the performance and writing of nonsense poems it should be a wonderful and fun opportunity to express one's self!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Aston

Love Hope Justice