



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

Telephone: **01256 389278**

Email: **admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk**

Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

Kingfishers Year 5 and 6



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the spring term, I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for my extremely thoughtful gifts and cards; I was overwhelmed with your kindness. Kingfisher class had an amazing 2024 and I am really looking forward to 2025, as we embrace another exciting term, that will allow all children to show how hard-working they are but most importantly how much fun we have as a class, learning something new.

Big Question for Spring term 1 is: What is the most spectacular route around the UK?

Geography- Our Geography topic this term is UK locational knowledge. Throughout this topic, Kingfisher class will identify continents and oceans bordering Europe and research the human and physical features of Europe and the UK through using their maps and atlas skills. From this, the children will plan a journey from UK to a destination of their choice in Europe, where they will identify European flags, capital cities, what countries are part of The European union and which countries use the Euro currency. Every child will know what a county is, identify counties of the UK and place counties on a UK map, how mountains and hills are formed, identifying major hill and mountain ranges of the UK and communicate their findings through a holiday brochure. Each child will draw an accurate map of human and physical features in the UK with symbols and a key.

Big Question for Spring term 2 is: 'What were the achievements of the Shang Dynasty Early Civilisation?

History- Our History topic this term is Shang Dynasty, Ancient Civilisations. Children will be introduced to the Shang Dynasty of ancient China, placing it on a timeline. They will compare this timeline with a British timeline of the same period. They will go on to compare accounts of the Shang Dynasty written c.200 B.C. with more modern archaeological evidence, making judgements about which is more accurate. Kingfisher class will look at the list of the first ten kings of the Shang Dynasty as written c.200 B.C and will go on to think about how accurate this information is and use other sources to try and establish facts.

We will read some evidence in the oldest Chinese poetry book and think about its reliability as a historical source, before expressing the story in a variety of ways. Finally, we will explore the story of how the Zhou army attacked and took over the Shang palace, ending the Shang Dynasty. The children will end this unit by creating a commemorative plaque which celebrates the achievements of the Shang Dynasty.

English- I was so impressed with the quality of writing Kingfisher class produced last term and they were really proving how resilient they are! The children are now using all the tools to continue improving their writing and have really learnt how to engage their audience. We will sustain this quality of writing through reading a variety of inspirational fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts around our topic 'Earth and space'. These exceptional texts will strengthen their comprehension skills in preparation for their reading assessments. It will also give them examples of how to use the

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correct spelling, grammar and punctuation that is needed to create an outstanding Year 5/6 piece of writing.

Maths - Children in Kingfisher class will continue to consolidate their learning in many areas of the maths curriculum and apply 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. Year six children will now be working really hard in preparation for their SATs; they will be given test- style questions to ensure that they feel happy and confident and we will ensure that all children are given the help and support they need, both, in school and at home with home-learning. Please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Meier any questions, as I am more than happy to help.

Science- In science lessons this term, we will be studying the wonders of Space and exploring the **Big Enquiry Question: Does life exist outside of the solar system?** The children will learn how stars produce vast amount of heat and light and that all other objects in space are lumps of rock, metal or ice and can be seen because they reflect the light of stars. This will be followed by memorising the names and order of the planets and sun in the Solar system, and discovering the effects of gravity. Therefore, they will be looking at gravity at a deeper level and understanding that objects with larger masses exert bigger gravitational forces. We will finish this topic by exploring the Moon's phases, orbit of the Earth, shadows and why we have day and night.

Art- Our Space theme will continue into the first half of the term in Art, when the children will be introduced to artist, Peter Thorpe who is famous for his space abstract art. The children will be exploring the life of Peter Thorpe and will be developing the skills he used into their own art. The children will be given a range of paints and tools to paint a space themed picture in the same style as Peter Thorpe. Kingfisher class will then move onto creating their own version of Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh.

DT- This term we will be focussing on textiles, combining different fabric shapes. Each child will be designing, creating, and evaluating a space themed drawstring bag to link with our Art and Science. They will investigate and analyse items made using textiles: the materials used and how they are made. They will learn a variety of hand sewing techniques to support them in creating and designing their bag. However, before the children begin creating, I think it is important that they know where their materials come from and the environmental impacts of producing textiles and how it is our responsibility to reduce these impacts therefore, each child will learn about sustainable clothing and textiles. Please help us with our mission! If you have any material, sewing equipment, decorations, etc that you would like to donate to Kingfisher class we would really appreciate it.

Computing- For the first half term in computing Kingfisher class will be focussing on the unit 'spreadsheets. They will be supported in organising data into columns and rows to create their own data set. Kingfishers will be taught the importance of formatting data to support calculations, while also being introduced to formulas and will begin to understand how they can be used to produce calculated data. They will learn how to apply formulas that include a range of cells and apply formulas to multiple cells by duplicating them. All children will use spreadsheets to plan an event and answer questions. Finally, Kingfisher class will create charts and evaluate their results in comparison to questions asked.

For the second half term Kingfisher class will be introduced to creating websites for a chosen purpose. They will identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process, each child will pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.

Music- I was incredibly impressed with the musical talent in Kingfisher class from the Autumn term. They all sang beautifully at the carol service. It was so lovely to see all children fully embrace the

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specialist Music lessons with Mr Garrod and the progress they made playing the ukulele was impressive, I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of these lessons to enjoy the music they were producing. This term the children will continue having Music lessons with Mr Garrod playing African instruments.

P.S.H.E and Citizenship- Our first PSHE unit will be focussing on the question ‘what jobs would we like?’ where each child will focus on their achievements, aspirations, and opportunities. We will begin this unit by attending a careers fair, where we will be able to ask professionals about their careers. We discuss achievements they have accomplished so far and the type of attitude that helps people succeed. Kingfisher class will learn about their own personal preferred learning styles, to understand how they learn best. As well as exploring challenges people face and barriers to success and think about strategies, we can use to overcome such obstacles. All children will identify opportunities that are available to them now and those which may be available to them in the future. Stereotypes in the world of work will be addressed, as children are encouraged to consider jobs they would like to do, and the skills needed to do those jobs. The children will also reflect on their personal goals and the steps they can take to achieve these in the future.

For the second half-term in PSHE we will be answering the key question ‘How can drugs common to everyday life affect health? Each child will learn about how to use medicines correctly and safely, and how they contribute to people’s health and wellbeing, both every day and in emergency situations. All children will develop their knowledge and understanding of how vaccinations and immunisation can work to stop disease spreading and protect people from infection. We will then learn about legal and illegal drugs, other than medicines, and the associated effects and risks. Through this, they will explore how the risk of drug use may vary depending on factors such as the strength of the drug, how much is taken and how often, the person and the situation. We will discuss the reasons why someone may or may not choose to use a drug, through analysing different influences and explore ways to manage these influences and ways to respond, including how to do so assertively in a range of situations. Finally, we will be researching how media messages and influences in relation to smoking/vaping and alcohol use, through analysing key messages in the media such as through adverts and health advice posters. Pupils will apply critical thinking skills to assess the reliability of sources and learn how to access reliable and accurate advice and information about alcohol and tobacco/e-cigarette use.

R.E - This term in RE, we will begin by exploring ‘Peace’ through the Revelation of the Wu’ran, Ramadam and sawm. Children will discover that there are many practices and beliefs that help Muslims find peace in their religion. They will learn the Arabic word *salaam* (*secured, pacified, submitted*) has the same root as the word *Islam*, personal peace is attained by utterly submitting to Allah and the greeting *As-Salaamu alaykum*, favoured by Muslims, has the literal meaning *Peace be upon you*. Kingfisher class will understand that many Muslims therefore believe that it is possible to attain personal *peace* through prayer and submitting to Allah and his will.

For the second half- term we will be unpicking the question Easter: ‘What happened next?’ through the topic’s resurrection and salvation. Children will learn that the resurrection of Jesus is a central Christian belief and Christians believe that death is not to be feared. They will explore how Christians believe that Jesus’ resurrection has opened the possibility of eternal life for them. Each child will research that the belief in the resurrection is shown in many ways by Christians, for example using an empty cross, words in hymns, Christian writings, and the focus on new life at Easter

French- For the first half term Kingfisher class will learn about range of sports in French and revisit opinions to describe those that they enjoy and those that they dislike. They continue to extend their opinions using *parce que* to give reasons for their choices. For the second half- term we will begin by researching and finding out information about Senegal, a French-speaking country in West Africa. After discovering information in French about the capital city, flag, climate and religion, pupils begin

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to dive further into the culture of Senegal, with a particular focus on musical traditions, including the importance of *les griots* and the significance of fashion and clothing, shining the spotlight on Dakar Fashion Week.

P.E – For the first half term we will be consolidating our Earth and Space Science topic through dance. The children will compile a range of dances to numerous pieces of space inspired music and will perform their dance to a class at the end of term. The children will be practicing their improvisational skills to find different ways to travel, rotate, stretch, hold shape and vary the level and speed through dance and in time with the music. They will end by creating and modifying a dance showing the astronaut's journey.

We will also be focussing on netball, through this unit children will play in both defence and attack. The children will learn how to pass and catch the ball using a range of techniques. They will develop their skills of marking, including one-on-one marking and how to get free from a defender using skills such as the dodge and straight lead run and the skill of pivoting. They will also learn the technique for shooting and how to do a toss-up. Different netball rules will be covered each week and there will also be a focus on playing as part of a team and evaluating their own and others' performances.

For the second half- term the children will learn and perform some rhythmic gymnastics to represent the movement of the Earth, Sun and Moon. They will create a range of shapes with their bodies, both on the floor and on apparatus and they will practise their movements and linking actions to join ideas and represent different events. In addition to this, they will work on their own and with a partner to create a range of point balances, using their skills and creativity to create new shapes and positions. At the end of the unit, they will combine their skills to plan and perform group routines that showcase their work.

We will also be focussing on football, which I know some children have been waiting a long time for! The children will learn how to pass, receive, and travel with the ball as well as tackle and shoot. They will develop their understanding of the principles of attacking and defending in invasion games. Children will have the opportunity to take part in individual, paired and small group activities as well as to play a range of competitive games to enable them to practise and improve their skills. Please ensure your child is coming into school with a full PE kit, so they can fully enjoy their PE lessons in all weather conditions.

Home-learning - Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly either in paper form or My Maths but I will ensure to let your child know each Friday. Topic home-learning will be set when appropriate, with plenty of time to carry out the task. Spellings will be set and tested 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. Also, please make sure your child is practising their times tables on Times Tables Rockstars, especially the 6-, 7-, 8- and 12-times tables, as some children are really struggling with these and they are a really important part of feeling confident in Year 5/ 6 Maths. We would like the children to use this for 10 minutes 2/3 times a week, thank you for your support with this. If you wish to discuss anything about this term, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Meier (Kingfisher Class teacher)

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