



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE
Telephone: **01256 389278**
Email: **admin@prestoncandover.hants.sch.uk**
Headteacher: **Mrs. Simrit Otway**

Dear Parents and Carers

We are very pleased to welcome you to Sparrows class. As a team, our main priorities for the children over the next few weeks will be settling them into the school routine, building friendships, getting to know them and providing a happy, smooth transition from home to school.

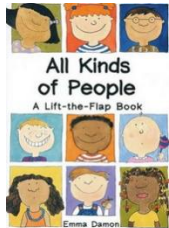


Our Big Enquiry Question for the first half of the term is “Who is in my world?” followed by “Why are the leaves changing colour?” after half term.

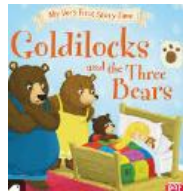
Reading and Phonics

The children will start their phonics lessons straight away and begin to learn those important sounds that will ensure future success in their literacy learning. We use a phonic scheme called ‘Little Wandle Letter and Sounds Revised’ and I will be holding a brief presentation on **Wednesday 24th September at 9.00am** where I will explain how the scheme works. Please indicate on the form attached if you are able to attend this presentation.

Literacy



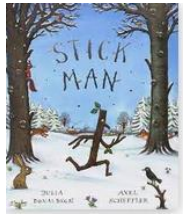
Some of the key texts we will explore together in the first half of the term are “All kinds of people” by Emma Damon and the traditional tale Goldilocks and the three bears”.



After half term, we will be using ‘The Leaf Thief’ by Alice Hemming and ‘Stickman’ by Julia Donaldson as some of our key text drivers.



These stories will provide the children with lots of opportunities for acting out and retelling them and creating story maps to support with this. The children will focus on early writing skills and begin writing familiar words, such as their name and names of those people in their family whilst learning how to form letters.



Maths

In maths, the children will be working on number recognition and counting with one to one correspondence. They will also develop a strong understanding of how numbers can be made up in different ways as well as exploring sorting to different criteria and creating repeating patterns.

Understanding the World - People, Culture and Communities (RE)

For Religious Education, our focus will be on the concept of “Belonging” in the first half term. We will explore ways that we are the same but also how we are all different and unique. We will then think about what makes someone a Christian and explore some of the things different Christians might do and how they can show that they belong to the Christian faith such as go to church and read stories from the Bible. The children will also explore creation from a Christian perspective and explore why the word “God” is important to Christians.

After half term, we will be exploring the concept of “celebration” and celebrating the birth of Jesus. As part of this, we will explore the question “Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?” to develop our understanding of the Christmas story.

Understanding the world - People, Culture and Communities- MFL (French)

Over the term, the children will focus on finding out more about France, how we get there and will learn some French nursery rhymes.

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Understanding the world - Past and Present (History)

During the first half of term we will explore how things change over time and develop a sense of our personal history. We will also use the stories 'Dogger' and 'Peepo' as a showcase for life in the past. We will talk about how have things changed over time and comparing old and modern day household objects.

Please could we also ask you to send in a photo of your child when they were a baby to support with our discussions.

Understanding the World -The Natural World (Geography)

Over the term, we will explore the key questions where do I live in relation to the school? How do I get to school? Who lives the closest/furthest from the school? After half term, we will explore what features we have in our immediate environment by exploring our school grounds and observe what is happening to the trees we have.

Understanding the world - The Natural World (Science)

Our science focus for the first half of term will be animals including humans. Through this, the children will find out more about how do our bodies work and why we need a skeleton. They will also explore the different senses and similarities and differences between each other as well as develop an understanding of the importance of hygiene and how to keep healthy by exercising, eating well, having good hygiene and getting the right amount of sleep. After half term, the focus will be on seasonal change and what happens in Autumn. As well as using their observational skills to explore what Autumn looks like in our school grounds, the children will explore why some animals hibernate during the cooler seasons.

Expressive Arts and Design (Art/ DT)

Over the term, we will be exploring the work of the artist Andy Warhol through the mediums of drawing, painting and printing. The children will create self- portraits in a pop art style. After half term, we will then use his work to inspire our own pop art autumn leaf prints. Our provision will also include lots of opportunities for transient art- using loose parts and natural objects we find to create sculptures and pieces of art such as the Stickman family and Owl Babies.

Expressive arts and design (Music)

In our music sessions, the children will explore using percussion instruments to create patterns using different dynamics. They will also be exploring rhyme through singing familiar and new nursery rhymes and after half term begin to learn songs for our nativity.

Physical development (PE)

We have 2 PE sessions a week for dance/ gym and games. Please ensure that your child **brings their PE kit into school on Monday morning**. They will then bring it home at the end of the week for washing. They need a pair of trainers as part of their kit as we also use them for the Golden Mile which we will do throughout the week as well as in PE sessions. If your child has pierced ears, please can they not wear earrings on our **PE days which are Wednesday and Friday**. If this is unavoidable, please ensure your child can remove them independently for our PE sessions as we are unable to take them out.

Computing

Throughout the first half term, the children will use technology to develop their fine motor skills through using paint programmes to draw with. They will also explore and recognise digital devices in their environment as well as learn about online safety.

Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline Assessment is a statutory national assessment that will be administered to all children in Reception classes in their first 6 weeks of starting school. The aim is to provide a snapshot of where children are in their learning on entry to reception and will establish a starting point to measure the progress they have made by the end of Year 6. The

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assessment itself is a short practical assessment which will focus on the children’s early literacy, communication, language and maths skills and will be carried out with each child on a one to one basis as part of our usual in class provision. The tasks will help us to get to know the children so that we can build upon their learning.

Home Learning

Each week, the phonic words that we focus on in our class sessions will be sent home. Please practice these with your child. Also, once the children are assigned their reading book, they will also bring home a sheet of words that the book focusses on. Please practice these each week with your child as well as read through their assigned E-book at least 3 times as this will really support your child in their reading. They will also have a session once a week where they will go to the school library and choose a book to take home. **Our library day is Thursday.**

Over the whole year, we are encouraging the children to develop a sense of spirituality and awe by noticing the beauty and wonder in the world around them. This might be as simple as spotting the colours of the leaves changing, or watching a squirrel in our outdoor area. We would really appreciate your support in nurturing this curiosity at home. Please take a photo of something your child notices and finds special in the world around them—such as autumn leaves, a flower, a sunset, or the frost on a spiders web for example, and send it in to share with the class. These photos will be added to our class book and will help us celebrate the children’s observations together and encourage them to see the world as a wonderful place.

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
Sparrows Class Teacher

Dear Mrs Cooke

I am able/ unable (please circle) to attend the Little Wandle presentation on **Wednesday 24th September at 9.00am.**

Signed.....

Name (please print)

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