



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm and colourful welcome back to the autumn term! I hope you have all enjoyed a restful break and are ready for an exciting year of learning ahead. For those I haven't yet had the chance to meet, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your child's class teacher. I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all and working closely with you to ensure your child has a happy and successful year. Autumn is a wonderful time for fresh beginnings, and we are excited to be exploring some marvellous topics together this term.



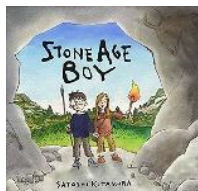
Our Big Question for the first half term: Can you share messages without words?

History and Art

This term, pupils will journey back to Prehistoric Britain, exploring life in the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. They will develop chronological understanding, investigate sources and artefacts, and compare periods to decide which they would most like to live in.

In Art, we will take a virtual tour of the Lascaux Caves to study original cave paintings, comparing them with contemporary artists such as Banksy before creating our own. Pupils will experiment with charcoal and staining techniques, then study Alberto Giacometti to inspire their own 3D sculptures.

English



This term, English will link with our History topic. We begin with 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura, using drama to explore Stone Age life and develop inference and deduction before writing a narrative description of a camp. We will then study 'It Starts with a Seed' by Laura Knowles, inspiring pupils to write nature poems exploring imagery and growth.

After half term, we move to Joseph Coelho's 'If All the World Were...', where children will write a narrative epitaph and a persuasive poem from the viewpoints of different creatures. Finally, with Andy Seed's 'Interview with a Tiger', pupils will create imaginative animal interviews. Alongside these texts, pupils will continue with regular spelling, handwriting, guided reading, and grammar sessions.

Our Big Question for the second half- term: Is Southampton a gateway to the world?

Geography

In this topic, pupils will explore land use and settlement in Southampton to understand its global connections. They will learn to locate the UK within Europe, identify bordering countries and oceans, and place Hampshire within the UK. Using maps, children will study Hampshire's key physical and human features and describe patterns using the four points of a compass.

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Maths

In maths this term, we will focus on place value, with Year 3s securing three-digit numbers and Year 4s four-digit numbers, including in the context of money. Pupils will then develop strategies for addition and subtraction, before revisiting multiplication and division, building confidence with times tables and division methods. Later, we will explore fractions and finish with shape, investigating symmetry, 2-D and 3-D properties, and coordinates. Times tables will be practised regularly, with the goal that all Year 4s recall facts up to 12×12 . Pupils can also use Times Tables Rock Stars and Hit the Button at home for extra practice.

Science

Science lessons in the first half of the term will be based on the topic of light. Throughout the unit, children will understand the role of light in helping us to see. They will learn about artificial and natural light sources and explore how light behaves with different materials. We will then move on to learning about electricity and circuits, where children will explore which materials either allow or do not allow electricity to flow through.

DT

Later this term, DT will link with our Science topic of Electricity. Pupils will learn to make simple circuits, evaluate products, and design switches for a purpose using different materials. They will progress to more complex circuits with multiple devices, exploring how these are used in everyday life. The unit will culminate in designing and creating their own lanterns for collective worship.

Computing

This half term, pupils will learn about the Internet. They will explore how networks connect together, understand that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and consider how networks can be kept secure. They will also learn how online content is created and who owns it. After half term, our focus will move to Data Logging. Pupils will collect and analyse data, use computers to spot patterns and answer questions, and draw their own conclusions from the information gathered.

PSHE

This half term, our focus question is “How do we treat each other with respect?”, exploring kindness, fairness, and understanding in school and beyond. After half term, we will ask “What keeps us safe?”, learning about everyday safety, sensible choices, and basic first aid with a visiting workshop. Across the term, pupils will build listening, empathy, and confidence through circle times and discussions.

R.E

This half term, we will be exploring the messages in Jesus’ teachings, asking the question “What kind of world did Jesus want?”. Children will think about the importance of stories with messages, why they matter to Christians and other believers, and what they might mean in their own lives. They will also have opportunities to respond creatively through art, drama and writing. After half term, our focus will move to the concept of Angels, where we will consider how Christians understand and express their beliefs, and reflect on the deeper question “What is the Trinity?”.

French

In French lessons this year, Robins class will continue to listen to and respond to a range of spoken phrases. We will engage in conversations, giving basic information relating to ourselves, our age, pet, family, where we live and our birthday. Children will learn to ask how to say something in French and develop an understanding of noun gender. At the end of the term, we will learn about Christmas celebrations in France!

P.E

This half term, pupils will develop skills in Tag Rugby and Dance. In rugby, they will focus on moving with the ball, accurate passing, and teamwork in attack and defence. In dance, the theme of *Electricity* will inspire

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expressive group sequences using canon and unison. After half term, the focus shifts to Hockey and Rhythmic Gymnastics. In hockey, pupils will practise dribbling, passing, and applying simple tactics. In gymnastics, they will perform flowing sequences with ribbons, hoops, and balls, showing agility, balance, and control.

Music

This term, we will be using the Charanga music scheme to explore the song “Happy”. Children will listen to and appraise a range of musical styles, develop rhythm and timing, and perform together as a class. After half term, our focus will turn to Christmas music, where pupils will enjoy learning festive songs and performing as part of our celebrations.

Home-learning

Maths and English **home learning will be set each Friday and should be returned by the following Thursday.** Occasionally, children may also be set tasks in other subjects. Home learning sheets will be stuck into children’s home learning books. As these are provided by the school, children are expected to treat and care for the home learning books with respect as they would any books at school. Home learning is a valuable way for children to consolidate what they have been learning in class, and those who approach it with enthusiasm and support at home often make excellent progress across the year. Last year, I was so impressed by the creativity and effort that went into many pieces, and I look forward to seeing what this year’s Robins class will produce. Children will receive weekly spellings and spelling tests will take place on Fridays. A half-termly list of spellings will be stuck inside the home learning books to aid children with practise at home. **Weekly spelling tests will take place on Fridays.**

Please also continue to support your child with regular reading at home, encouraging them to complete an activity in their reading record as often as possible. As a school, we suggest a minimum of 3 times a week but the more, the better! This will help them on their way to achieving their Story Wings badge, and as a class we are determined to see as many children as possible earn this special award! **Children’s reading records should be returned to me each Friday** so I can take note of their progression.

General reminders

P.E lessons this term will take place on a Monday and Thursday afternoons. Please ensure that your child comes to school on a Monday with a full PE kit (white top, red shorts, long plain bottoms for outside and plain trainers with socks). Long hair should always be tied up using plain hair accessories. Children should not have nail polish or ‘tattoos’. Children are encouraged to bring in slim, small pencil cases that just have the essential tools for learning: 2 writing pencils, a simple sharpener, a plain rubber, a ruler and a small glue stick are ideal. Pencil cases will need to fit inside their trays and additional stationary will not be necessary as it can be a distraction to learning. This will enable children to practise our leadership habits 2 and 3 in a pro-active and independent way. Children will take home school library books each week to help encourage reading for pleasure. **Books will be changed each Thursday afternoon.** Children will also be expected to bring in their red communication books each day.

If you have any questions about either your child or their learning, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can also pop me a message in your child’s red communication book.

I look forward to sharing our learning with you throughout the term.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Aston
Robins Class Teacher

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