



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Dear Parents and Carers,

Kingfishers Class Newsletter

Welcome back to the spring term, I hope you all enjoyed the rest and had a wonderful Christmas. Kingfisher class had an amazing 2025 and I am really looking forward to 2026, as we embrace another exciting term of learning.

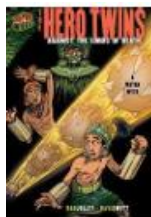
Big Question for Spring term 1 is: 'What makes a legacy last?'

History and Art: In History, our focus this term is The Mayan Civilisation. Through this topic, the children will explore a non-European society from around AD 900, providing a contrast with British history during the Anglo-Saxon period. We will be identifying the main characteristic features of the Mayan civilisation, learning about Mayan culture, and examining how aspects of daily life differed from Britain at the same time.

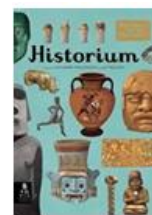
Our Art learning will be closely linked to our History topic. The children will explore Mayan architecture, beginning with observational sketching and progressing to the creation of their own Mayan architectural models. This work will be inspired by Bridget Riley's Op Art, combining bold patterns and optical effects. The children will design and create their own Mayan temples using Op Art techniques.

Big Question for Spring term 2: 'Is Copacabana a world away from our local area?'

Geography: Our Geography topic this term is: Copacabana – South American study. Through this topic, children will build their knowledge and understanding of Copacabana, in Brazil to identify and evaluate the similarities and differences with their local area. They will achieve this by locating the world's countries, using maps, atlases, globes, and digital mapping. They will concentrate on the environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities. From this, they will understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region within South America, including climate zones, biomes, vegetation belts, settlement and land and economic activity. We aim to use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs and digital technologies.



English- In English, the children will continue to build on the writing skills developed last term, focusing on engaging the reader and editing their work collaboratively to a high standard. We will begin the term by reading *Street Child*, which is sure to captivate the children. Through this text, pupils will further develop their reading and comprehension skills, supported by a range of drama activities such as hot seating, conscience alley and freeze-framing key scenes to deepen their understanding of events and characters. Throughout this unit, children will produce a variety of written outcomes, including diary entries, poems, balanced arguments, book reviews and their own Victorian-era narratives. Later in the term, the focus will shift to Mayan myths, including *The Hero Twins*, *The Rain Player* and *The Chocolate Tree*. Inspired by these texts, the children will write their own original Mayan myths and create a Historium-style page showcasing their learning about the Mayan era.



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 hard in preparation for their SATs; they will be given test-style questions to ensure that they feel happy and confident with the tests ahead. We will ensure that all children in Kingfisher class are given the help and support they need, both, in school and at home with home-learning. Please ensure your child continues to practise their times tables to maintain quick and efficient recall. We encourage pupils to use TTRS at least twice a week, as secure knowledge of times tables is essential for confidence and success in Year 5/6 Maths.

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Science- In Science, our topic this term is Circulation. Pupils will learn how oxygen enters the body through the lungs, is transported by the blood and why oxygen and glucose are essential for muscles to work. They will explore the role of the heart, blood vessels and circulatory system and understand how blood moves oxygen and nutrients around the body. We will also highlight the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including exercise, a balanced diet and avoiding smoking and alcohol. In the second half of the term, pupils will study life cycles, learning how different organisms grow and survive to adulthood. They will explore sexual and asexual reproduction and understand how characteristics are passed on to offspring.

Computing- In the unit 'Selection in Physical Computing', pupils explore the concept of selection in programming using the Crumble programming environment. They are introduced to a microcontroller (the Crumble controller) and learn how to connect and program components, including output devices such as LEDs and motors, by applying their existing programming knowledge. In the following unit, 'Selection in Quizzes' pupils build on their understanding of selection by revisiting how conditions are used in programs. They learn how selection structures enable different outcomes depending on whether a condition is true or false. Pupils represent this understanding through algorithms and by constructing programs using the Scratch programming environment. They apply their knowledge of programming and selection to design and implement a quiz in response to a given task.

Music- I was incredibly impressed by the musical talent shown by Kingfisher Class during the Autumn term, particularly their beautiful singing in the carol service. The children performed with confidence, courage and enthusiasm and clearly enjoyed sharing their music with others. This term, pupils will have further opportunities to develop their skills by playing and learning about a range of instruments. In the first half of the term, the focus will be 'Jazz', where children will compose complex rhythms using their aural memory and explore how pulse, rhythm and pitch work together. In the second half of the term, the unit 'Dancing in the Street' will develop attentive listening and aural recall, while pupils improvise with increasing confidence using their voices, rhythms and varied pitch.

PSHE/RSHE- During the first half of the term, pupils will explore how to help in an accident or emergency and developing an understanding of human rights. Children will learn basic first aid skills, including how to respond to burns, cuts, choking, asthma attacks and allergic reactions, as well as when to seek adult help and the importance of remaining calm in an emergency. Alongside this, pupils will explore the purpose of rules and laws, the relationship between rights and responsibilities and the importance of compassion, shared responsibility and caring for others and living things. In the second half of the term, the focus will be on relationships, with an emphasis on communicating safely within friendships. Pupils will learn about different types of relationships and what makes a positive, healthy friendship, both face-to-face and online. They will explore safe communication, responsible use of the internet and social media, recognising risks, seeking consent before sharing information or images and knowing how to respond if a friendship makes them feel worried or unsafe. Children will also learn how and when to ask for help or advice.

R.E - In RE, during the first half of the term, pupils will study Sacred Texts, focusing on the Qur'an and the concept of Wisdom, alongside the Christian unit *What Would Jesus Do?* Children will learn about how Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received messages from Allah through the angel Gabriel, which form the Qur'an, and how the Qur'an is treated with great respect. Pupils will also explore the structure of the Christian Bible, particularly the Gospels, and learn how Christians believe Jesus' teachings provide guidance on how to live. They will study key ideas such as the Sermon on the Mount and how Christians believe Jesus' message challenges expectations, transforms lives and encourages believers to live out this good news in their communities and the wider world. In the second half of the term, the focus will be The Journey of Life, exploring rites of passage within Islam. Pupils will learn about important Muslim practices at birth, including the call to prayer, naming traditions, charitable acts and blessings. They will also study the Hajj, understanding its significance as a pilgrimage to Mecca and a key rite of passage that demonstrates devotion to Allah.

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French: In French, the topic this term is “Qu’est-ce que tu portes?” Pupils will learn vocabulary related to clothes and colours, explore seasons, express opinions, and practise shopping for clothes. They will also develop their speaking and listening skills through role-play activities, asking and answering questions about what they and others are wearing. The unit is enriched with orienteering activities using colours, helping to reinforce vocabulary in a fun and interactive way while promoting teamwork and problem-solving.

P.E. – In PE, Kingfisher Class will develop skills in invasion games, dance and gymnastics. In handball and football, pupils will practise passing, dribbling and shooting, learn attacking and defending tactics, and work cooperatively while following rules and fair play. In dance, children will create and perform group sequences inspired by *The Greatest Showman*, developing control, rhythm and musical awareness. In gymnastics, pupils will design and perform sequences themed on rivers and mountains, incorporating balances, travel, rotations and changes in speed and direction, both on floor and apparatus. Throughout the unit, there is a strong focus on sportsmanship and the Habits *Think Win Win* and *Synergise*. Children will also take part regularly in the Golden Mile to build stamina and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Home-learning - Maths and English home- learning will be set weekly on a Friday to be in the following Thursday. 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. As a school, we suggest children are reading a minimum of 3 times a week however it really is the more, the better! Please ensure you have read with your child at least once a week and signed their reading record as these will be checked every Thursday. 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.

General Reminders - Please ensure your child brings a full PE kit to school every Monday, which will remain in school for the week and be taken home on Fridays, as PE days may change at short notice. Children should not wear watches or earrings during PE.

Please ensure that long hair is always tied back for health and safety reasons. Also, we ask that children do not wear nail polish or temporary tattoos in school. Kingfisher Class pupils are encouraged to bring in their own pencil cases and equipment. Pencil cases should be slim, as they will be kept in trays at school. It is important that pupils prioritise items that will be useful during daily lessons. These include a blue handwriting pen (no biros, please), writing pencils, a pencil sharpener, a rubber, a ruler, a glue stick and a small selection of colouring pencils. Providing their own equipment helps the children to practise Leadership Habits 2 and 3 and enables them to maximise their learning time. Finally, please ensure that school bags do not have keyrings or toys attached

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. As a reminder, children have home-school communication books for important parent messages, such as changes to collection arrangements. Please, also remind you child to show us their book when they come in to school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Meier
Kingfisher Class teacher

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