



P.P.S. Willow Class

September 2023
Autumn Term

Where in the World? / Were the Mayans

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome the children back to school as they embark on their year six adventure. We are eager to hit the ground running and build upon the progress the children made last year. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children better over the last few weeks and I am confident that we are going to have a fantastic year.

As the oldest children in the school, we are keen to present our pupils with lots of opportunities to show their leadership qualities, including taking on roles such as: School Ambassadors, Eco-Council Representatives, House Captains, Worship Group Leaders and School Council Members.

We are all very excited about the residential trip to P.G.L. on the Isle of Wight (4th-7th October). Mrs Cater, Miss P-H, Mrs Gill and I will be accompanying the children, supporting them to make the most of this great experience. The team-work, maturity and confidence that children develop from this trip is such a great foundation for the year to come.

Our topics this term will involve the children exploring North America, reflecting back on the Petworth Boys' School Bombing, as well as stepping back in time to discover the lives of the Ancient Maya Civilisation!

In science, we will be learning about the classification of living things. We will find out about Carl Linnaeus and his 'binomial system' for naming plants and animals. Children will gain an understanding of what is meant by the term 'micro-organism' and conduct experiments to find out how these organisms change and grow. We will explore our local environment and learn to use and design classification keys for the living things around us.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education.

In geography the pupils will develop their knowledge of the globe, learning the equator, hemispheres, and the tropics. They will also identify different time and climatic zones and consider how global positioning impacts aspects of human geography. Children will use latitude and longitude, to locate areas on the globe. The children will be specifically looking at North America, identifying its countries and landmarks, as well as describing the different climates and lifestyles that can be found across the continent.

History will be a major focus this term too. Children will take part in a service for remembering the people who lost their lives in the bombing of the Boys' School in 1942. This will link into lessons on our local history and how Petworth has been affected by broader historical narratives. The children will be exploring this, as well as local geography in Petworth during our 'Petworth Week', commencing on Monday 23rd September. After half term, the children will be learning about ancient Maya Civilisation.

R.E. lessons this half term will explore the question: 'What does it mean for God to be holy and loving?'. Children will analyse extracts from the Bible and consider how these two values are embodied in Christian faith.

Computing lessons will be focusing on computer fluency, using Office 365, for the first half term, giving the children an excellent grounding on how to use the computer to achieve different things and how to stay safe online. In the second half of the term, children will be learning how to use different programs to communicate and collaborate, before looking at designing and creating a web-page.



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Design and Technology learning will mostly take place during the second half term. Children will be learning about gears, pulleys and other mechanical devices. They will research, design and create their own toy car. In addition to our normal D.T. lessons, we have arranged for the Royal Navy to come and work with year six, delivering a STEM workshop on pneumatics, electronics and engineering. This will be an exciting hands-on experience taking place on Tuesday 15th October.

P.E. will be predominantly outside (weather permitting), so please ensure your child wears appropriate kit on these days (including trousers when necessary). Invasion games (including hockey) will be covered the first half term, as well as gymnastics. This term, we are extremely lucky to be working alongside 'Victory Gymnastics'. The children will have the opportunity to be taught and learn from specialist gymnastics coaches, as well as using equipment such as bars, vault and beams. The children will also be taking part in Forest School, commencing on Thursday 7th November. Until then, P.E. days will be Tuesdays and Fridays.

Art lessons will link with our North America topic and children will research different styles of landscape artwork. They will evaluate and discuss a range of artists' work and explore geometric drawing techniques, before planning their final landscape piece. Our main focus artist will be Stephen Wiltshire.

In P.S.H.E. children will be discussing the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships. They will also learn about different types of families and find out about the differences between marriages and civil partnerships. E-safety is taught as an integral part of our computing curriculum, but digital interactions are also discussed in P.S.H.E lessons too.

Of course, English and Mathematics will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above. Maths this term is very much focused on

developing children's knowledge of place value, calculations and fractions. In all maths lessons, we aim to improve children's reasoning and problem solving skills alongside their numerical fluency.

English lessons will encourage pupils to develop their writing skills and hone their SPAG (Spelling Punctuation and Grammar). Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns and children are encouraged to use their EdShed logins to practice these spellings daily, ready for testing on Wednesdays.

Times-tables and spellings will be tested on a weekly basis. Homework will be set weekly. This will be handed out on Thursdays and due in on the following Wednesday.

I am really looking forward to an exciting year ahead with year six, full of challenge and achievement. If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk about your child's learning or well-being, please feel free to catch me at the school gate or make an appointment at the office. I look forward to working with you and your children.

Rob Neary (Class Teacher and Assistant Headteacher)

Oz Dallyn (Teaching Assistant)

Key dates for your diary

MRC Experience Day—Wednesday 18th September

Boys' School Memorial Service - Friday 27th September

Royal Navy STEM workshop - Tuesday 15th October

PGL Residential – 4th-7th October

Forest School – Thursday 7th November (weekly) until 5th December