



P.P.S. Willow Class

September 2020
Autumn Term

#mountainadventure

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome the children back to school after such a long, and at times, challenging period. We are eager to hit the ground running and learn as much as possible in the coming year!

Given the current circumstances, we know that school will be a little different to usual, but we will do our very best to give the children a sense of normality, whilst keeping their safety and well-being paramount at all times.

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

Our topics this term will involve the children taking on the role of mountain adventurers, identifying exciting learning as we go!

To start the autumn term, in **Science** the pupils will focus on electricity. They will discover how scientists developed their understanding of this energy and will learn how to draw circuits using electrical symbols. Through a variety of investigations, children will discover the effect of increased and decreased voltage and record their findings.

In the second half of the autumn term the pupils will find out about light. They will design tests to find out how light travels and how our eyes perceive light. They will explore how this knowledge is used in context. and plan and conduct a range of enquiries.

In **Geography** the pupils will develop their knowledge of the globe, learning the equator, hemispheres, and the tropics. They

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 as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.

will also identify different time and climactic zones and consider how global positioning impacts aspects of human geography. Children will use latitude and longitude, to locate areas on the globe and compare different regions by examining physical and human features of different environments. They will focus primarily on three mountainous regions in Britain, South America and Europe.

History will be a major focus this term too. Children will also 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. Children will also consider how the local area has changed over time by exploring maps and plans dating back to the 19th century (**Geography**).

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. Later in the term, we will explore Islam and investigate Tawhid (unity/oneness) and learn about its significance in the Muslim community.

Computing lessons will be on e-safety for the first half term, giving the children an excellent grounding on how to stay safe online. In the second half of the term, children will learn about how to research effectively using the internet. Children will find out about how to assess the credibility of information and develop their digital literacy by creating a fact sheet using 'Google Documents'.



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Music lessons have had to adapt because of the current guidelines on singing and using particular instruments. We are awaiting confirmation of whole-class guitar lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher. In these lessons, children will be taught about staff notation, composition and performance.

In **Design and Technology** lessons, children will learn about levers, pulleys and gears and discover how mechanical advantage can be applied in a range of contexts. Armed with this knowledge, they will be asked to design and make a product suited to mountain sports.

P.E. will be predominantly outside (weather permitting), so please ensure your child has appropriate kit with them (including trousers when necessary). Invasion games (including hockey and netball) will be covered the first half term and gymnastics in the second. Any equipment used will be cleaned as specified in our risk assessment.

Art lessons will link with our mountain 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 multi-media piece.

PSHE lessons will offer all children in year 6 the opportunity to become 'Peer Mediators' by learning how to facilitate the de-escalation of conflict. Even if children decide not to take up the role on the playground, it will be a very useful life-skill! Later in term, they will explore what factors make happy and healthy relationships.

'Bikeability' week starts on November 30th. This is a programme led by instructors who will teach the children how to ride their bikes safely on the road. Over the course of the week, children will be supervised and assessed and given an award based on the level of skill and safety on the road. Please ensure your child has a road-worthy bike at school for this week. If this is not possible, let us know as soon as possible and we will attempt to make alternative arrangements with Bikeability.

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 along with two words from the statutory list. 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. Copies of the homework sheets will also be posted on the class blog:

<http://petworthprimaryschool.edublogs.org/>

We are really looking forward to an exciting year ahead with year 6, 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 us at the school gate or make an appointment at the office.

We look forward to working with you and your children.

Rob Neary (Teacher)
Jo Gill (Teaching Assistant)

Emma McGrath (Teacher)
Steph Mayne (Teaching Assistant)

Key dates for your diary

Boys' School Memorial Service - Tuesday 29th September
Bikeability Week - 30th November—4th December
School INSET - Friday October 23rd
Christmas Fair—Friday 4th December