



# P.P.S. Willow Class

September 2017  
Autumn Term

## The Amazon and The Alps / Heroes and Villains

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome the children back as fully fledged year 6s, ready to take on new challenges in their last year of primary school. As the oldest children in the school, we are eager to present them with lots of opportunities to show their leadership qualities over the coming year, including taking on roles such as: Playground Leaders, School Ambassadors, Eco-Council Representatives, House Captains, Peer Mediators, Worship group leaders and School Council Members.

Our topics this term will lead us through the geographical regions of The Amazon and the Alps, identifying exciting learning opportunities as we go! In the latter half of the term we will be exploring 'Heroes and Villains'. As well as giving us the chance to read some incredible literature (Beowulf included!) we will learn about historical figures, considering how our justice system has evolved over centuries.

To start the autumn term, in **science** the pupils will focus on electricity. Particularly how to create and repair circuits, then moving onto how to control a variety of technology using circuits.

In the second half of the autumn term the pupils will look at evolution and how we can find evidence of this today.

**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.**

In **geography** the pupils will learn about the equator, hemispheres, and the tropics. They will also identify different time and climatic zones. By using latitude and longitude, they will find key features on the world map and develop their understanding of land use in both areas. In the second half of the autumn term they will focus on the counties of the UK and what makes Petworth special.

Music lessons will develop children's ability to play and perform in solo and ensemble, using voices and instruments. They will also be learning how to use and understand staff notation whilst learning to play the cello with a specialist Music Teacher.

**RE** lessons this term will allow children to ponder the nature of God and explore how the Bible can teach us about His different qualities. We will be asking the question, what does it mean if God is holy and loving? Later in the term, we will explore Islam and be investigating why is Mohammed important to Muslims?

In **French** Mrs Soal will be teaching a topic entitled, 'Notre école' (Our school). In this unit children extend their knowledge of places around the school and learn to talk about everyday routines and subjects studied during the school day. They revise telling the time to the hour and extend this to using half-hours and quarter-hours. They look at school timetables and begin to give times using 24-hour clock notation. They find out about timings of the school day in a French-speaking country and compare with their own. They talk about what they did at break time and create short texts describing these activities.

Computing lessons will give children the chance to design their own 'app' for a smart phone and better understand technology such as GPS, accelerometers and geo-tagging.



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Once children have designed their apps, they will work on project management skills and learn how apps might be developed in the business world. We will also continue to discuss e-safety, what this means and what we need to do to keep safe.

In **Art/Design**, the pupils will create their own working ski lift and test it with a variety of weights. They will then find out about Pop Art and Comic Book Art and create self-portraits depicting themselves as heroes and villains.

**PE** will be predominantly outside (weather permitting), so please ensure your child has appropriate kit with them (including trousers when necessary). Hockey and tag rugby will be covered in the first half of the term, followed by Gymnastics and Netball. With the PGL trip in early October, the outdoor classroom being built and Forest Schools running throughout November, the children are set to do a lot of learning outside this year!

Of course, English and Maths will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above. Maths this term is very much focussed 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). As a school we are continuing our focus on reading and we are inviting parents in to school for a reading showcase in early November. This is designed to give parents ideas about how to support their children's reading at home and to provide an opportunity to see how reading skills progress over different year groups.

There will also be an opportunity to attend a maths calculation workshop in the second half of

the autumn term, focussed on fluency, problem solving, reasoning and the four operations.

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Timetables will be tested through our five minute challenge on Wednesday and Friday. Spellings will be tested on a Monday.

Homework will continue to be set weekly with a renewed focus on using Lexia and Mathletics at home, to support your child's learning.

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, please feel free to catch me 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)

### Key dates for you diary

Bombing of the boys school memorial- 29<sup>th</sup> September

Parents Evening 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> October

PGL Trip - 6th-9th October

INSET day 20<sup>th</sup> October

Forest Schools—19<sup>th</sup> October—23<sup>rd</sup> October (Every Thursday)

School photographs 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Reading Open Day - 10th November