



P.P.S. Willow Class

September 2022
Autumn Term

Where in the World? / Were the Mayans Civilised?

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome the children back to school as they embark on their Year 6 adventure. We are eager to hit the ground running and learn as much as possible in the coming year! It is fantastic to know that, as long as possible, we will be trying our very best to give the children a sense of normality, whilst keeping their safety and well-being paramount at all times, with school now having returned 'back-to-normal' after these challenging 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 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.

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 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. The children will be exploring this, as well as exploring local geography in Petworth during our 'Petworth Week', commencing on Monday 26th September. After half term, the children will be exploring the Mayan 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. 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 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. This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic.

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Design and Technology learning will mostly take place throughout the second half term. The children will be learning to create delicious, healthy meals using seasonal produce, some of which will come from our school allotment. The children will also be helping to maintain these allotments, whilst learning how and when to plant seeds, as well as how to maintain the land and look after the animals. The children will be learning how different seasonal foods are grown and used, including a trip to Pizza Express to see this in real-life.

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 in 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 20th October.

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.

'Bikeability' week starts on Monday 7th November. 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 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 Wednesdays and due in on the following Tuesday.

I am 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 me at the school gate or make an appointment at the office. I look forward to working with you and your children.

Zoë Pennicotte-Henrie (Class Teacher) Jo Gill (Teaching Assistant)

Key dates for your diary

Boys' School Memorial Service - Thursday 29th September

PGL Residential – Friday 23rd September – Monday 26th September

Bikeability Week – Monday 9th November – Friday 13th November

Forest School – commencing Thursday 20th October

Pizza Express Trip—Wednesday 5th October

MRC Experience Day—Wednesday 28th September