



P.P.S. Willow Class

September 2018
Autumn Term

#mountainadventure

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: 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 opportunities 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 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 and compare different regions by examining physical and human features of different environments. They will focus primarily on three mountainous regions in Scotland, Argentina and Russia (the tallest mountains in Britain, South America and

Europe).

History will be a major focus this term too, as we commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1. Children will use source material to gain an understanding of the devastating effects of war and consider the changes that have occurred over time as a result of this conflict. Children will also take part in the church service for remembering the people who lost their lives in the bombing of the Boys' School ~ 1942. This will link into lessons on our local history and how Petworth has been affected by broader historical narratives.

We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the 'Bible Explorers' for our **R.E.** lessons this term. This is a group which broadens children's knowledge of the Old Testament through a variety of engaging and practical activities. Later in the term, we will explore Islam and investigate why Muhammad is so important to Muslims and compare Islamic beliefs with the Christian doctrine.

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. In the second half of the term children will begin a topic entitled 'Notre Monde' and learn some key geographical terms which they will use to give weather forecasts and describe features of different landscapes.

Computing lessons will give children the chance to design their own 'blogs' in the persona of a mountain explorer. As part of this, children will learn about how to use the internet safely and consider aspects of e-safety raised by publishing content on the internet. They will also be designing apps and discovering how this process occurs in real-life technology companies.

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.



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

In **Design and Technology** children will learn about levers, pulleys and gears and discover how mechanical advantage can be used to create a range of products. Armed with this knowledge, they will then design and construct their own pulley systems to support mountaineers embarking on a multi-stage climb.

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 children will also be developing their outdoor adventurous activities (OAA) skills.

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. Later in the term, they will learn about how mandalas are created and design and draw their own mandala.

'**Bikeability**' week starts on October 29th. 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.

On September 26th Midhurst Rother College (MRC) will be running the first of several **transition days**, designed to get the children ready for secondary education. In the previous years children have really enjoyed this opportunity and found the activities really exciting.

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 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).

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

Homework will continue to be set weekly. This will be handed out on Wednesdays and due in on the following Tuesday. 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, 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 (Teahcer)
Jo Gill (Teaching Assistant)

Key dates for your diary

PGL meeting—Friday 14th September
MRC Transition Day—26th September
Bombing of the Boys' School Memorial- 29th September
PGL Trip - 5th-8th October
Parents Evening 15th and 17th October
INSET days 18th 19th October
Bikeability Week 29th October—2nd November
School photographs 2nd November
Memorial Week - 5th-9th November