



Bratton Primary School

Engagement - Resilience - Integrity

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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to Antelope Class! We hope you've all had a wonderful summer and the children are ready for an exciting learning journey ahead in Year 4 – I am really looking forward to both working at Bratton and particularly with your children. We are very much looking forward to getting to know you all. We warmly encourage all parents and carers to introduce yourselves to the Antelope Team over the coming days, if you haven't done so already, and to keep the communication flowing throughout the year. It is crucial that we all work together to ensure that your children are happy and reaching their full potential across the curriculum.

As a school we will continue to develop a Growth Mindset within our children at Bratton Primary this year. We want them to love challenges, learning from their mistakes rather than fearing failure, putting lots of effort into everything they do and valuing feedback from adults and friends.

The learning in Antelopes will be challenging and exciting this year and this letter will outline the topics and themes for Autumn Term 1. Our History theme is Ancient Egypt. The children will learn how physical artefacts were used to answer questions about this period and the people who lived there. They will learn how Ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphics, about the discovery of Tutankhamun, the process of mummification and myths of Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses. The theme will also inspire a significant part of our Art this term. The children will sketch artefacts, write their name in hieroglyphics on papyrus paper and make a clay canopic jar. We will also be linking to the topic in our music lessons as we listen to and evaluate music from Egypt and learn songs with Egyptian themes.

In English the children will analyse a wide range of high quality fiction and non-fiction texts, photos and film footage as a basis for their own writing. Extended writing will include story setting descriptions of an archaeological dig and the view from a boat on the river Nile, a diary from the viewpoint of an Egyptian archaeologist, mummification instructions and non-fiction reports about Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses. 'Big Write' sessions will take place on alternate Fridays, with Talk Homework sent home on a Thursday.

As a school we aim to nurture a deeper love of literature in all of the children and improve reading and comprehension. All children will read regularly to a member of the Antelopes Team. It is extremely important that you continue to be actively involved in promoting a love of reading through regularly hearing your child read and reading to them. Your child will hand in his or her Reading Record each morning so that we can see what they have read and your comments. We expect the children to choose from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books and make full use of our fantastic new scheme books and library facility.

We will devote time daily to 'GHASP' (Grammar, Handwriting, Spelling and Punctuation). We will not be sending lists of spellings home to learn each week, as research has found this to be ineffective in developing long term retention of words. Instead, in school we will focus upon developing understanding of spelling rules, including those for suffixes and the way that they change the meanings of words, as well as learning words from the Year 4 and 5 Primary Curriculum. The children will learn to extend sentences by using a wider range of verbs, adjectives and conjunctions. There will continue to be a focus upon developing cursive handwriting skills. The children will be given the opportunity to write in pen, when we feel that they are ready to do so, building this confidence and accuracy over the year. We appreciate that

some children may have written in pen last academic year and enjoy to do so at home, but we wish to establish consistent presentation expectations initially, as we all move toward that goal.

In Maths this term, the children will all learn to recognise the place value of digits, ordering, comparing and rounding numbers. They will learn to use place value knowledge to aid addition and subtraction. They will learn to add and subtract numbers using the formal written methods of column addition and subtraction. They will also solve multi-step addition and subtraction problems, deciding which operations and methods to use, remembering the RUCSAC method (Read, Understand, Choose, Solve, Answer, Check). The children will revise and develop knowledge of times tables and division facts. It is vital that the children have secure, rapid recall of these, so please do keep practising these frequently at home.

In Science we will be learning how to ask relevant scientific questions and use different types of enquiries to answer them. Our first topic will be States of Matter. The children will compare and group materials according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. They will observe changes in state through heating and cooling and identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle through lots of exciting investigations.

In Computing (ICT) the children will learn to use the internet safely and appropriately and be discerning in evaluating digital content. They will research topics and produce a report linked to our Ancient Egypt theme.

Subjects taught by specialist teachers will be as follows: PE every Wednesday by Miss Wozniak. Please ensure that your child has a full, correct and named PE kit in school every day. We understand that many children take part in sports outside school and how expensive it can be to buy more than one pair of trainers, so we are happy for your child to take his or her trainers home overnight but they must be returned the next day. Your child will also be taught French every Wednesday afternoon. As already communicated, Swimming will run on a Thursday afternoon starting **Thursday 13th September** and ending on **Thursday October 18th**.

Your child will receive Maths and/or English homework each week. **This will be set on Thursday, to be handed in on the following Tuesday.** There will also be a short talking homework every other Thursday, relating to the Big Write, which will take place the next day; it is vital that this is completed as it will link directly to the planning or writing on Friday.

Finally, can we please ensure that your child has the correct footwear specified in our uniform list.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am always available for a chat after school in person or by phone and I am happy to make an appointment in this case.

Thank you in advance for your support this year.
Kind regards,

Mr Scott Browne, Mrs Lesley Whitefield, Mrs Kim Harvey and Miss Nicola Shaw
Antelope Class Team

