



Bratton Primary School

Engagement - Resilience - Integrity

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! This term our topic will be “Amazing ME!” We will be exploring the local area in Geography lessons and learning more about the human body in Science. The children will investigate different ways that artists develop portraits of themselves and others, experimenting with different styles and techniques.

Alongside our topic work the children will continue to participate in Phonics, English and Mathematics lessons. Phonics sessions will continue to be based upon the Letters and Sounds teaching programme. The class will be beginning Phase 5 this term. In Phase 5, new graphemes are introduced as well as alternative spellings for those sounds we have already learnt. Please remember to look at the list of the sounds and high frequency words we will be covering, which will be found in your child’s red phonics folder, as well as in their homework book, and we ask that you continue to practise these in order to support their learning in class. We will also continue to write the specific letter sounds and tricky words your child needs to practise in their reading record.

The focus for English this term is on writing for a purpose and the children will be completing a range of fiction and non-fiction writing, including a short story and a list poem. In guided reading sessions, the children will read a range of fiction texts and we will be introducing our carousel of activities more of which will be explained at our class meeting. In Big Write sessions this term the class will be focusing on a repetitive story, descriptive writing and a book review. In all these areas we will be focusing on a more accurate use of punctuation and expanding the children’s use of vocabulary, such as adventurous adjectives, when writing. We will also continue formal GHaSP (Grammar Handwriting and Spelling Punctuation) sessions within daily teaching. During these sessions, the children will build upon skills already learnt and begin to learn some new rules for language use and language structure. The children will also take part in daily handwriting sessions. Well formed cursive handwriting is a key part of the Year 1 English curriculum and therefore will be a focus moving forward.

In Mathematics, we will focus on numbers, place value, addition and subtraction. We will further the children’s understanding of how to build 2-digit numbers through the use of practical resources. The children will also develop their use of a number line to answer more challenging calculations.

On Wednesdays the children will be having PE with Miss Wozniak, our coach. This term they will be focusing on football and on a Tuesday, in class PE lessons, the children will develop their basic movement and co-ordination skills through athletics with me.

As it is the first term in Key Stage 1, the class will also be working hard to transition from Early Years Foundation Stage. With this in mind the children will have a more structured morning timetable and child initiated time will continue to be given in the afternoons, this

free-flow learning is an extremely important part of education. It is a wonderful opportunity for the teachers to observe and support children in their development of crucial skills across the curriculum.

Over the term the children will receive home learning. This will be sent out on a Thursday afternoon and collected back in on a Monday. In addition to this, a short Big Write talk homework will be given out every other Thursday and be due in on the Friday (the day after). Home learning may include an activity such as a Maths puzzle, phonics game or language work. Home learning will focus on consolidating the skills that are taught at school, providing the children with another opportunity to practice and discuss these. It also provides another assessment opportunity for us, as we are able to see how embedded their skills are when used in a different context. Each task will be clearly explained to the children in class, as well as there being instructions given on the task itself. We are keen to emphasise that these tasks should be short, focused, shared learning and envisage them taking no longer than 15 minutes.

Reading should be seen as separate to homework. We aim to foster a love of reading with all of the children and encourage them to read regularly, not just because they have been told to! Children will be sent home with a book pitched at their level, as well as one chosen from the school Library aimed at extending and challenging them. Please read this Library book to and with your child, as reading a range of genres and higher level books positively impacts the way in which children view reading. The reading records sent home are an opportunity for you to record the books the children have read, as well as being a place to write any comments about your child's reading skills. These comments support us in our assessment of the children and aid us in selecting new and exciting books for them. **We ask that you please continue to work with your child and aim to fill in a section of this record at least five times per week, discussing their reading progress and understanding with them.**

As a school we continue to develop a 'Growth Mindset' within all our children at Bratton Primary. 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. As such, Lemur class will continue to develop 4 key aspects and these are: reflectiveness, reciprocity, resourcefulness and resilience.

We are looking forward to an exciting year and to supporting the children with their learning, as well as continuing to work closely with yourselves. We look forward to meeting as many of you who can attend our class meeting on Monday 16th September and in the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are available for meetings before or after school by appointment.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Sarah Janman and Mrs Hilary Gray

Year 1 Team