



Bratton Primary School

Engagement - Resilience - Integrity

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Dear parents and families,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable half term after a successful first term in Leopard class. The children have shown great resourcefulness and reciprocity in their learning so far and we look forward to this continuing, as well as the children developing other aspects of our school ethos: engagement, resilience and integrity. Thank you for your support in our previous topic, 'All About Me,' especially the finding of the old and new photographs. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about themselves, their families and how things, such as houses, clothes and games, have changed. Our next topic is going to be 'The United Kingdom'.

In maths this term, the children will start by continuing their learning of multiplication and will begin to learn about division. We will be using repeated addition to solve multiplication and division questions, before moving on to using arrays. The children will understand that the multiplication of two numbers can be done in any order and will progress to using multiplication facts to solve reasoning problems. Next, we will begin to learn about fractions. The children will be able to identify $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a shape, number or amount and will know that a fraction is made up of equal parts of a whole. We will also recognise simple equivalent fractions, such as $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$. Lastly, we will revisit addition and subtraction. The children will continue to use methods to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers together, including using pictorial representations, objects and written methods. We will then progress to solving questions using mental methods. Included in our addition and subtraction work, we will also focus on calculating using money. The children will become familiar with the pound and pence signs, be able to use different coins to make amounts of money and add and subtract money, including finding change. *This year, the times tables we will be focusing on will be the 2s, 5s, 10s, and 3 timetables, so please continue to practice these with your children at home, as well as the number pairs to 20 and 100. Additionally, the children will greatly benefit from lots of addition and subtraction practice at home, such as quick fire questions, where they are required to add or subtract 1 and 2 digit numbers, or please do try some of these addition and subtraction online games. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/addition-and-subtraction>*

In English lessons, the children will be learning about a variety of different genres. This term it will be: fairy tales, letter writing, and newspaper articles. Firstly, the children will become familiar with the fairy tale, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will read the story, answer comprehension questions about the text, sequence the story and perform the story through drama. We will then think about the giants perspective. The children will interview the giant, and then re-write the story of Jack and the Beanstalk from the giants point of view. After this, the children will be writing postcards and letters, based on our topic of the United Kingdom. We will read different types of letters, identifying their purpose and features, before writing a postcard from a UK tourist spot. Then, the children will write a letter back to an alien, who has asked them all about their country. They will answer questions, as well as writing their own to the alien. After this, the children will be learning about and performing a news report, based on an exciting event. This will lead to learning about and identifying the features of Newspaper articles, before writing their own based on the event. Through these genres they will develop their writing skills, but also their GHaSP (grammar, handwriting, spelling, punctuation) skills. *As a school, we continue to use the website Letter Join, to teach handwriting. The children can also access this at home so please continue to encourage them to do so.*

The children have responded well to our class guided reading sessions in term one, so these will be continued and follow the same structure. *I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far and re-emphasise the importance of continuing to read with your child once a day and writing in their reading records.* These are being checked on a Monday. The children's reading has been

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assessed during the first term and they know their levels. It is important that the children have one book on the Oxford Reading Scheme at their level, and then one book at a higher level, as their challenge book, which can be read by you to and with the children. The children are reminded daily to take their reading books and reading records home, although I am aware that last term they were not always successful in this. We are trying to develop the children's independence in this, however, we will continue to encourage and remind them.

The topic this term is 'The United Kingdom', which will mainly focus on geography skills. The children will name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas. They will also understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country. Lastly, they will identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom. Computing will also be linked to this topic. The children will use the internet to research a tourist city in the UK for their postcards and create an information poster about an area of the UK, using Microsoft Publisher.

In science, the children will continue to learn about animals, including humans. We will be learning more about healthy eating, before moving on to why exercise is important and personal hygiene. We will work scientifically to conduct investigations around these topics, including a heart rate investigation. Our design and technology will be linked to our science this term. The children will be investigating different types of bread, before designing and making a healthy sandwich. They will conduct product research before and evaluate their product after they have made their food item. In music, the children will continue learning to sing the song, 'Hands, feet and heart' which is a song written for children to celebrate and learn about South African Music. They will then play percussion instruments with the song, before starting to practice and perform the Nativity. In RE this term, the children will be learning about how special religious festivals are celebrated, with a focus on Christianity and Christmas.

PE will continue to take place on a Wednesday and a Friday. *Please make sure your children have their correct PE kits with them on these days. With the weather getting colder, please ensure this includes tracksuit bottoms and a warm top.* This term, PE will be tag rugby with Miss Wozniak and dance with myself.

Big write will continue to take place every other Friday, with the first Big Write of the term taking place on Friday 16th November. Talk homework will be given out on a Thursday. The talk homework will not take much time and the children will not be expected to write anything down (although if your child would like to write notes, they can).

Homework will continue to be given out on a Thursday and will be due in the following Tuesday. The homework tasks will build on and consolidate an aspect of learning that your child has completed throughout the week or act as revision. *Your child should spend about 20 minutes on homework and no more. The children are reminded to hand their homework in, during class on Mondays and Tuesdays, however, this is not yet always being handed in, resulting in the work being unmarked. Can we ask that you remind the children to put their books in the homework box, as they can remain in their bags.*

We are looking forward to an exciting and engaging term ahead. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to follow this up with you.

Regards,

Mrs. Hannah Stewart, Mrs. Lisa Smith
Leopard Class team.

