



Bratton Primary School

Engagement - Resilience - Integrity

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Meerkat Class Curriculum Letter: Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Meerkat Class! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break. The Meerkat pupils have already made an extremely positive and enthusiastic start to the year, trying their best in a Maths assessment, completing a challenging Times Tables task, creating an extended piece of writing in English, using sketching techniques in Art, and beginning their journey of discovery into this term's topic, World War One.

In Meerkat class this year, we have high expectations of the pupils in terms of achievement, engagement, and behaviour. Please remind your children that, as the senior pupils of the school, we expect them to be excellent and inspiring role models for the younger year groups, and it is extremely important to demonstrate excellent attitudes and positive learning behaviours both inside and outside the classroom. We will be building on our ethos of developing a Growth Mindset approach to learning, encouraging the children to remember that there is always room for reflection and improvement, and inspiring them to want to constantly push their own learning forward.

Miss Pickup will be the class teacher for Meerkats this year, and we are fortunate to have Mrs Jeffery in the role of class teaching assistant. Our school booster teacher is also assigned to Meerkat class during the mornings in Maths and English. Mr Lynn will be working with children within the classroom, as well as extracting both small groups and individual pupils to develop a particular skill or to extend the stretch and challenge where appropriate. As we move into Term 2 and beyond, Mr Lynn will be working predominantly with the nine Year 5s during English and Maths, teaching skills planned by and with Miss Pickup, thus allowing each cohort to receive focussed, targeted input, investing in maximising learning progress.

In English, the Meerkats will be reading a range of stimulus texts based on our World War One topic. Our first class novel will be *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo, and we will also be reading a wide variety of poetry (including poems by Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, John McCrae, Laurence Binyon, Jessie Pope, and Rudyard Kipling), letters, diary extracts, and articles, to develop the pupils' understanding of different writing genres, and to give them a broader context in which to place the novel. They will be developing their writing skills through Big Writes and smaller extended tasks based on

their reading, creating diary entries, stories, poems, letters, and essays. The children will also continue to have a strong focus on grammar, spelling, punctuation, and handwriting, developing specific skills within their writing pieces and also explicitly practising skills in their G.H.A.S.P. sessions. Children will improve and learn skills as a class in taught sessions, and strengthen their writing individually by working with feedback and using targets to push their work forward.

In Maths, the Meerkats will be consolidating their basic skills in the four key processes that underpin all numerical work: multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction, practising a range of strategies and methods. They will be regularly challenged with Mental Maths exercises, and will complete work on statistics linked to both their History studies of World War One, and their Science topics. The feedback from the Maths assessment completed in the first week will help inform areas for key development. Mr Lynn is a Maths specialist, and will be able to assist by tailoring and targeting support to enable children to improve where they are struggling in particular areas.

As previously mentioned, our first topic is World War One, and this will form the focus for History, Art, Music, P.E., P.S.H.E., R.E., and even some of our Science studies. We will explore sources from the war years, including: diaries, letters, photographs, and propaganda posters. We will watch clips from documentaries, discuss the impact of the war on the world, and find out about everyday life back in 1914-1918. We will create sketches, posters, and paintings, sing and play famous tunes from the Great War years, research and recreate WWI soldier fitness sessions, explore the impact of soldiers' living conditions upon their health, discover the wide variety of cultures and faiths of soldiers involved in the war, and develop an understanding of the impact of emerging technologies, such as aeroplanes and communication methods, upon the world and the war. In Science, we will also be looking at plants, animals, and classification, as well as the circulatory system, the transport of nutrients and water in both animals and plants, and the impact of diet, exercise, drugs, and lifestyle on the way that our bodies function.

Finally, all Meerkats have been issued with a plastic Homework folder in which to keep: their Reading Journal, homework sheets and books, and letters for your attention. We expect pupils to complete at least five reads per week and record their reflections in their Reading Journals. These will be taken in and checked every Monday by Mrs Jeffery. Miss Pickup is the school's 'Reading Champion' and will expect every Meerkat to have a reading book with them at all times, and read at every opportunity! Please encourage as much reading as possible at home – it is key in supporting your child's learning!

We hope your child is looking forward to the exciting term ahead as much as we are! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns, and we look forward to seeing you at our Class Meeting after school on Tuesday 25th September.

Best wishes,

Miss Jennifer Pickup, Mrs Trish Jeffery, and Mr Fintan Lynn