



# Bratton Primary School

**Engagement - Resilience - Integrity**

Headteacher: Mr Ian Bolton

T: 01380 830511

E: [admin@bratton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bratton.wilts.sch.uk)

W: [www.bratton.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.bratton.wilts.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and families,

Welcome back to Giraffe class; we hope you all had a lovely half term break.

This term, we will be really focussing on improving the children's independence. This is because it is a key skill for the children to take ownership of their learning and use the knowledge they have, as well as the learning walls, their peers and additional resources in the classroom to support their learning. The children will receive rewards, such as table points, for their independence, to encourage this growing resourcefulness.

In Maths this term, the children will continue to consolidate their knowledge of their timestables, using their multiplication and division skills to start understanding fractions. They will use resources to share them equally into groups and write those groups as fractions, understanding that the amount of groups they divide into will be the bottom number (denominator) and the amount they have in each group will be the top number (numerator). From this we hope to start ordering fractions from smallest to largest, as well as adding and subtracting fractions. Towards the end of the term the children will learn about statistics, focussing on analysing a range of graphs; learning the key vocabulary of 'How many more/less? What does the graph show? What is the difference between?' From this they will understand how to use information given to them to produce their own charts or graphs.

In English lessons the children will be focusing on three genres: shape poetry, information texts and diary entries. Through these genres they will develop their writing skills, but also their GHaSP skills (grammar, handwriting, spelling, punctuation). This term we will continue to focus on ensuring punctuation is used correctly and is consistent in all areas of writing, in particular capital letters and full stops. This is key for all of their writing and is something the children know how to use but need to be more consistent with applying. When learning shape poetry the children will recap and improve the techniques of: onomatopoeia, alliteration, similes and metaphors. When writing information texts, the children will learn how to take notes, using information given to them, and use these notes to create sentences of their own. We will cover how to present an information text in many ways but also how to keep the reader engaged with powerful vocabulary. To end the term, the children will be writing recounts linked to our new topic of chocolate. We will be doing many drama activities during this genre, in order to develop the children's writing with emotive language.

In guided reading lessons the children will continue to have specific sessions involving a number of different activities, such as: reading comprehensions, dictionary and thesaurus work, inference activities, writing predictions based on what they have read and summarising texts. This term we are particularly focussing on: furthering our inference and comprehension skills, predicting what might happen next in a story, spellings and understanding authors choices. Our class book this term will be Charlie and the Chocolate factory, linking to our new topic.

This term's topic will be Chocolate. The children will conduct surveys and taste tests to find out what their favourite type of chocolate is, as well as their peers. We will then look at the journey of how chocolate is made, discussing South America and linking areas to the Aztecs. This will lead us onto discussions about fair trade and how food miles affect our planet. Various chocolate bar wrappers will be analysed to look at ingredients, as well as the name of the company that made that chocolate bar.

This will then link back to our fair trade discussions on whether these companies give the cocoa farmers a fair deal for their cocoa. During this time we will discuss ancient beliefs of how different types of chocolates can be good and bad for you. Towards the end of the term, we will investigate melting chocolate, looking at what temperature the melting point starts, whether is it the same for different types of chocolate and how long it takes for the chocolate to harden again. The children will discuss how to make the tests fair and how to ensure the results are accurate.

Other areas of the curriculum will also be taught through this topic. For example, in computing, the children will be creating a now and then poster about chocolate to show how it has developed over time. This will lead to the children researching key facts about the chocolate process with the children presenting their findings to the rest of the class. The children will continue to practise key skills on how to operate Microsoft word effectively, exploring shape and size of font, but also other options within this software.

In Science, the children will learn about plants. This topic will cover the structure and functions of plants, understanding that each part of a plant has a specific role. We will explore the terminology of roots, stem, leaves and flower, discussing how these parts are needed for nutrition, support and reproduction. The children will conduct and investigate plant growth, looking at: different factors on plant growth, for example, the amount of light, the amount of fertiliser; discovering how seeds are formed by observing the different stages of plant life cycles over a period of time and looking for patterns in the structure of fruits that relate to how the seeds are dispersed.

In PE the children will be taught athletic and fitness skills by Miss Wozniak and hockey by myself. In hockey lessons we will be focussing on: controlling a ball using a hockey stick, dribbling and passing to a partner, how to defend and attack in a game situation and how to work as a team.

In RE we will be learning about Hinduism. The children will have discussions and investigate the religion regarding their different views and beliefs when it comes to Diwali. They will make links between their own views and values, compared to other religions, understanding how different beliefs impact how people live and the choices they make.

The Big Write will continue to take place every other Friday, with talk homework given out on the Thursday. Please ensure you take some time to talk with your child about their ideas and what they will be writing about, as discussing and generating their ideas with you will help them massively when they come to the Big Write on Friday.

Homework will be given out on a Thursday and will be due in the following Monday. The homework tasks will build on and consolidate an aspect of learning that your child has completed throughout the week. Your child should spend about 20-30 minutes on a homework task and no more. If it is taking your child longer than this, please stop the task after this time. Homework is given to consolidate learning and if your child is finding something difficult then I am more than happy for them to see me about this on Friday or Monday and I can work through it with them.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Mrs Stokes and Mrs Smith  
Giraffe Class team