



# Bratton Primary School

**Engagement - Resilience - Integrity**

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Dear Parents and families,

Welcome back to Giraffe class; we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year.

This term, we will be further developing the independence of the children with regards to their learning and responsibilities. We will once again be using the learning pit to ensure that challenges are embraced, remembering that learning often involves making mistakes and correcting them. This approach will allow the children to take more ownership of their work, using learning techniques such as peer and self-assessment, but also using all of the individual and collective tools, support and resources available to them in school, if they need further help. They will continue to have regular DIRT time (Dedicated improvement reflection time) and be given ownership over their handwriting. They will do this by aiming to receive a pen license when they are consistently writing in cursive handwriting.

In Maths this term, the children will continue to consolidate their knowledge of their timestables, using engaging songs to help them remember multiplication facts. It remains important for the children to practise these skills at home, as well as at school, as these key skills will help further their learning in multiplication and division. The children will be learning how to multiply 2-digit numbers by 1 and 2-digit numbers using mental strategies, as well as formal written methods. Their understanding will be extended by using this knowledge to answer word problems using the RUCSAC approach (Read, Understand/underline, Choose, Solve, Answer and Check). Calculations this term will also involve the children learning about money, in particular ensuring they recognise the value of each coin and can convert between pounds and pence, especially in problem solving questions. Towards the end of the term, the children will use their multiplying and dividing 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.

In English lessons the children will be focusing on two genres: narrative writing (myths and legends) and recounts. Through these genres they will develop their writing skills, but also their GHaSP skills (grammar, handwriting, spelling, punctuation). This term the focus will be on ensuring punctuation is used correctly and is consistent in all areas of writing, in particular capital letters and full stops. We will then move on to looking at sentence structure, which links to narrative writing, making sure a range of techniques are used to engage the reader with their work. These techniques include: expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, alliteration, similes, conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions. Our myths and legends learning will link to our Roman topic, allowing the children to focus on a key person/God from the past, but also allowing the children to be creative and imaginative by designing their own God/legend. During the recount writing the children will write about something they have done in the past, focusing on key events and how to write about the past without over use of words such as 'then' 'I' and 'we'. Within English lessons, the children will be given opportunities to share and discuss their work with the class, in order to practise their reading skills, but also to further develop giving and receiving constructive feedback. Editing and feedback skills are a key area of developing writing skills.

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In guided reading lessons the children will 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. The children's reading records will go home every day and will be collected in every Monday to record how often the children are reading at home and also to check for any messages and feedback from yourselves or the children. When reading with your children, please do also check your children's understanding of what they are reading and ask them questions about the text, as the children's reading comprehension and understanding is just as important as the word reading itself. There are example questions in your child's reading records to help with this and if you would like any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact us. As the children are now in KS2 they can record their own reading in their journal, however, we do feel it is important for them to also balance this with reading to an adult, ensuring they are reading fluently out loud and understanding what they read.

This term's topic will continue to be the Romans, as there are many areas yet to explore, such as: the impact the Romans had on our lives today, the incredible inventions the Romans brought to Britain, as well as the lifestyle and customs of the ancient civilisation. During our narrative writing in English, the children will also explore Roman Gods and Roman Mythology. We aim to organise a class trip this term to further engage the children with this topic, allowing them to experience dressing up as Romans, as well as see Roman remains and artefacts. Towards the end of the term, the children will be designing and creating their own Roman shields to use in a battle. We will be testing the shape, size and effectiveness of their designs, therefore analysing how fit for purpose their shields were and what they would change if they were to design and make them again.

Other areas of the curriculum will also be taught through this topic. For example, in computing, the children will be learning about how to use the internet as a tool for research. This will lead to the children researching key facts and information about Roman inventions. They will then use this information to make a fact file in MS word, practising key skills on how to operate word effectively, exploring shape and size of font but also other options within this software.

In Science, the children will learn about animals, including humans. This topic will cover the importance of nutrition, learning about main body parts associated with the skeleton and muscles, identifying groupings of animals with and without skeletons, before finishing the term learning about diets of animals and humans.

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. Please note that I have changed this to a Monday to allow for children who forget their books, therefore giving me the time I need to fully look at their homework before the following week's work is sent out. 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