



Bratton Primary School

Engagement - Resilience - Integrity

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Dear Parents and families,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely summer with your children, and enjoyed the sunny weather. I am very excited to have become a new member of staff at the school, so would like to formally introduce myself; I am Mr. Gifford, the new Year 3 teacher. I have taken the opportunity to spend time in class with your children at the tail end of last year and really enjoyed getting to know them, through building positive relationships during our transition day. I am very much looking forward to building on this over the coming year as their class teacher.

This year, we will be further developing the independence of the children in regard to their learning, attitude to learning and general responsibilities in the school community. We will sustain our school emphasis on the development of growth mindset, encouraging the children to have a positive attitude to learning and the learning process. An essential aspect of developing growth mindset in the children is to ensure that they are not intimidated or apprehensive about finding work challenging and making mistakes, but comfortable in the 'learning pit'. Deeper learning takes place when we are stuck and we have had to think of a way out of the 'learning pit'. Therefore, we aim to encourage the children to change their mindset from 'I can't do this' to 'I'm going to learn how to do this'.

To aid the facet of independent responsibilities in the school community, the children will be taking on classroom responsibilities, such as being librarians, cloak room monitors and chair monitors. These roles will be circulated throughout the year, giving all children the opportunity to be a classroom monitor. The children will also become more independent by taking more ownership of their learning this year. They will peer and self-mark work, continue to have 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 neat, cursive handwriting, then they will receive a 'pen license' and will be able to write with a handwriting pen.

In maths this term, the children will start by exploring three digit numbers and developing their understanding of place value. This will include ordering numbers from smallest to greatest, placing three digit numbers on a number line, writing numbers in words and digits and using their understanding of place value to solve equations, using all four operations. We will also be working with money, becoming familiar with value and writing in pounds and pence.

There will also be an emphasis on using mental strategies for addition and subtraction, building fluency in the 2's, 5's and 10's multiplication tables before moving on to multiplication and division problems. It is important that learning is given relevance and throughout this term the children will apply their learning to different contexts and situations to encourage the application of learning which deepens understanding. This year the times tables we will be focusing on will be the 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 4s and 8s timetables so please practice these with your children at home.

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In English lessons the children will be learning about a variety of different genres, including: diary entries and newspaper reports, taught around our class book '*Romans on the Rampage*' as well as through traditional poetry. Through these genres they will develop their writing skills, but also their GHaSP (grammar, handwriting, spelling, punctuation). This term the focus will be on securing the children's knowledge of word classes, using a range of connectives and using adverbial phrases in their writing. They will also be having specific dictionary lessons to improve their dictionary skills and facilitating the children to take the initiative in expanding their vocabulary.

Reading remains an essential focus for us at Bratton Primary. The class book will be read to the children every day before home time and the children themselves will have the opportunity to read this to the class. Four days a week, we will have specific guided reading sessions where the children will carousel around a number of different reading activities, including: reading comprehensions, dictionary and thesaurus work, inference, writing predictions based on what they have read and summarising texts. The children have new reading records this year. These will go home every day and will be collected in every day. This is to ensure that the children are reading at home and to check for any messages and feedback from yourselves. When reading with your children, please also check your children's understanding of what they are reading and ask them questions about the text, as the children's reading comprehension 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 me.

During the first term, the topic the children will study is 'What the Romans did for Britain', with the focus being upon the development of history skills. Throughout this topic, the children will be learning about the impact the Romans had on our lives today, exploring the incredible inventions the Romans brought to Britain, as well as the lifestyle and customs of the ancient civilisation.

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. We will start by discussing the safety precautions needed when researching on the internet and then think about how we know information is true and reliable. 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, which will then be presented to the class.

In Art this term, the children will be making their very own marionette puppets, which was a popular form of entertainment for the Romans. The children will have to design their puppet and consider materials which will work most effectively. The children will also investigate how different mediums create different effects and how we must adapt our technique according to the mediums we use. Music this term will consist of the children honing their vocal skills, as well as learning about traditional Roman instruments. They will also take the opportunity to work as a group, composing a piece of music that will then be performed to the class.

In Science, the children will be learning about light and darkness. This will focus on the children identifying light sources, learning about shadows and exploring what happens when light reflects off a mirror or other reflective surfaces. The children will work scientifically by: looking for patterns in what happens to shadows when the light source moves or the distance between the light source and the object changes. We will also look at the importance of wearing bright clothing when out at night and the dangers of looking at the sun.

In RE this term, the children will be learning about how and why believers care for others and the world. Through this we will look at the religions of Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. We will be looking at how different religions believe the world was created and why humans

have a responsibility for looking after it. We will also look at ways in which religious organisations take care of the world and how the children themselves can help the environment and the world in which they live in.

The Big Write will take place every other Friday, with the first Big Write taking place on Friday 14th September. 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). 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 this year will 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. Your child should spend about 20-30 minutes on homework 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.

I am looking forward to the term ahead and hope that your children are too.

We hope to see you at the class meeting on Friday 21st September. During the meeting we will talk about the topic in more detail and discuss expectations and routines in more depth. It will also be a good opportunity to meet you and answer any questions or let me know of any concerns that you may have.

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

Regards,

Mr. Gifford and Mrs. Smith
Giraffe Class team.