



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 half term break. Mr Gifford and I have an engaging term ahead of us, with many challenging and interesting learning opportunities to look forward to.

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 and resources available to them in school, if they need further help. They will 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.

In Maths this term, the children will continue to consolidate their knowledge of addition, subtraction and multiplication. Our aim is for the children to be secure in having the skills to solve any question. The children will be taught a variety of strategies in order to find a method that suits them. After achieving this, the children will be able to approach a range of questions and have a reliable method to help them solve calculations effectively. The children will also continue practising their recall of timestables, in particular the 3's, 4's and 8's. This recall of facts is a key skill which will aid all areas of the maths curriculum.

In English lessons the children will be learning about a variety of different genres, including: narrative writing, poetry and reports. 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. Character and setting descriptions allow the children to be creative, but also include numerous writing techniques, such as: expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, alliteration, similes, conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions. 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.

In guided reading lessons the children we will have specific sessions involving a number of different activities, such as: reading comprehension, 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 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 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.

This term's topic will continue to be the Roman, 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.

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 Art this term, the children will be creating a mosaic art piece. The children will also investigate how different mediums create different effects and how we must adapt our technique according to the mediums we use. Later in the term the children will also use cardboard to create their own Roman shield.

In Science, the children will continue learning about light and darkness. 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 then investigate which materials are best for creating shadows and use this investigation to write a scientific report in English.

The Big Write will take place every other Friday, with talk homework given out on the 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 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.

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

Regards,

Mrs Stokes, Mr Gifford and Mrs Smith
Giraffe Class team