



Bratton Primary School

Engagement - Resilience - Integrity

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a fun but also restful Christmas holiday. This term our topic will be "The Great Fire of London." We will be exploring the history of this disaster through our core curriculum, looking not only at the key events, but also at the way people lived in 1666. The children will investigate light sources and the way heat affects different materials in Science. They will also be creating a 3D model of Pudding Lane and learning how to bake bread that is good enough for the King!

Alongside our topic work, the children will continue to participate in Phonics, English and Mathematics lessons. Phonics sessions will continue to be based upon the Letters and Sounds teaching programme. The class will be continuing Phase 5 this term. In Phase 5, new graphemes are introduced as well as alternative spellings for those sounds we have already learnt. Please remember to look at the list of the sounds and high frequency words we will be covering, which will be found in your child's red phonics folder, as well as in their homework book, and we ask that you continue to practise these in order to support their learning in class. We will also continue to write the specific letter sounds and tricky words your child needs to practise in their reading record.

The focus for English this term is on writing for an audience and the children will be completing a range of fiction, poetry and non-fiction writing, including a letter to their family about the Great Fire of London and instructions for baking bread. In guided reading sessions, the children will read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and we will be continuing to use our carousel of activities to develop a range of reading skills. In Big Write sessions this term the class will be focusing on character and setting descriptions and use of imperative verbs (bossy verbs) when writing instructions. In all these areas we will be focusing on a more accurate use of punctuation and expanding the children's use of vocabulary, such as adventurous adjectives and similes, when writing. We will also continue formal GHaSP (Grammar Handwriting and Spelling Punctuation) sessions within daily teaching. During these sessions, the children will build upon skills already learnt and begin to learn some new rules for language use and language structure. The children will also take part in daily handwriting sessions. Well formed cursive handwriting is a key part of the Year 1 English curriculum and therefore will be a focus moving forward.

In Mathematics, we will focus on: fractions, measuring height and length, addition and subtraction and time. We will further the children's understanding of how to apply our addition and subtraction skills to solve simple problems. They will be learning about how to find a half or quarter of an object or amount. The children will be using a range of measuring equipment and will begin to measure in standard as well as non-standard units, for example, cm and m. When learning about time, Lemur class will be exploring the passage of time by learning about days, months and years. They will also begin to learn how to read o'clock and half past times on an analogue clock.

On Wednesdays the children will be having PE with our outside sports coach and on a Tuesday, in class PE lessons, the children will develop their basic movement and co-ordination skills through dance and gymnastics with me.

As it is now the third term in Key Stage 1, the class will now be moving away from free-flow activities and will be participating in a more structured daily timetable. We will however continue our focus on speaking and listening skills and in particular encouraging the children to speak in fully formed sentences. They will also continue to have roleplay opportunities in our roleplay area. This term it is the bakers shop on Pudding Lane and we are looking forward to seeing them act out and take on roles from the great fire of London.

Over the term the children will receive home learning. This will be sent out on a Thursday afternoon and collected back in on a Monday. In addition to this, a short Big Write talk homework will be given out every other Thursday and be due in on the Friday (the day after). Home learning may include an activity such as a Maths puzzle, phonics game or language work. Home learning will focus on consolidating the skills that are taught at school, providing the children with another opportunity to practice and discuss these. It also provides another assessment opportunity for us, as we are able to see how embedded their skills are when used in a different context. Each task will be clearly explained to the children in class, as well as there being instructions given on the task itself. We are keen to emphasise that these tasks should be short, focused, shared learning and envisage them taking no longer than 15 minutes.

Over the last two terms the children have engaged extremely well with their reading at school and at home. We would like to thank you all for your continued support in this area. As you know, we aim to foster a love of reading and therefore children will continue to be sent home with a book pitched at their level, as well as one chosen from the school Library aimed at extending and challenging them. Please continue to read this Library book to and with your child, as reading a range of genres and higher level books positively impacts the way in which children view reading. The reading records sent home are an opportunity for you to record the books the children have read, as well as being a place to write any comments about your child's reading skills. These comments support us in our assessment of the children and aid us in selecting new and exciting books for them. **We ask that you please continue to work with your child and aim to fill in a section of this record at least five times per week, discussing their reading progress and understanding with them.**

As a school we continue to develop a 'Growth Mindset' within all our children at Bratton Primary. We want them to love challenges, learning from their mistakes, rather than fearing failure, putting lots of effort into everything they do and valuing feedback from adults and friends. This term, Lemur class will be focused on developing our resilience. We will be exploring different ways we can be resilient in different subject areas and will continue to think about what we can do when we are 'stuck in the learning pit'.

We are looking forward to continuing supporting the children with their learning, as well as working closely with yourselves. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are available for meetings before or after school by appointment.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Sarah Janman and Mrs Hilary Gray

Year 1 Team