



# 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,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and we would like to wish you all a happy new year. Our topic this term is going to be 'Polar Regions', where we will be learning about both the North and South Poles.

In maths this term, the children will start by recapping addition and subtraction, building on skills established in term 1. The children will continue to use methods to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers together, including using pictorial representations, objects and written methods. We will then progress to solving questions using mental methods. Included in our addition and subtraction work, we will also focus on calculating using money. The children will become familiar with the pound and pence signs, be able to use different coins to make amounts of money and add and subtract money, including finding change. Next, we will be moving on to geometry and the properties of shapes. The children will describe the properties of 2d and 3d shapes, using mathematical language such as: vertices, faces, edges and lines of symmetry, before sorting shapes based on their properties, using Venn diagrams. We will then move on to learning about position, direction and movement, where the children will sequence mathematical objects in patterns and use language to describe turns (right angle turn, rotation etc.). Following this, the children will be introduced to statistics. We will collect data, present data using tally charts, create simple tables, block diagrams and pictograms, before interpreting the information and answering questions. *As previously outlined, this year, the times tables we will be focusing on are the 2s, 5s, 10s, and 3 times tables, so please continue to practice these with your children at home, as well as the number pairs to 20 and 100 ( $12 + 8 = 20$ ,  $30 + 70 = 100$ ). Additionally, the children will greatly benefit from lots of addition and subtraction practice at home, such as quick fire questions, where they are required to add or subtract 1 and 2 digit numbers, or please do try some of these addition and subtraction online games.*

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/addition-and-subtraction>

In English lessons, the children will be learning about a variety of different genres. This term it will be: narrative, instructional writing and information texts. Firstly, the children will become familiar with the story 'Little Polar Bear'. We will read the story, answer comprehension questions about the text and sequence the story. The children will then be challenged to write down the key events of the story, as I am reading. Their task will be to then re-write the story with the focus of using quality sentences. They will then extend their sentences, adding extra detail, description and dialogue. After this, the children will be learning about instructional writing. They will become familiar with the features and layout of instructions, write command sentences and use adverbs to improve the clarity of instructions. The children will then write instructions for making George's Marvellous medicine, which is our class book. Lastly, the children will be learning about Non-fiction books and information texts. They will learn how to use the contents page, index and glossary in Non-fiction books and how to research information on a given topic. The children will then use the information and notes they have researched to write an information text on a polar animal. Through these genres they will develop their writing skills, but also their GHaSP (grammar, handwriting, spelling, punctuation) skills. *As a school, we continue to use the website Letter Join, to develop cursive handwriting. The children can also access this at home so please continue to encourage them to do so.*

This term we will be continuing our recently started class book, 'George's Marvellous Medicine,' By Roald Dahl. This will be read to the children before home time and the children themselves will have the opportunity to read this to the class too, encouraging reading aloud and reading with expression. Guided reading will take place 3 times a week and will continue to follow the carousel structure with children

---

Address: Carpenter's Lane, Bratton, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 4RL



rotating the skills they are developing. *Thank you for your support so far with reading, please continue to read with your child once a day and write in their reading records. The children can also write in their reading records themselves, to document the occasions they are reading to themselves.* The reading records are still being checked on a Monday this term. The children's reading has been re-assessed before Christmas and they know their new levels. It is important that the children have one book on the Oxford Reading Scheme at their level, and then one book at a higher level, as their challenge book, which can be read by you, both to and with the children.

As outlined earlier, the topic this term is 'Polar Regions', which will focus on developing both geography and history skills. The children will start by recapping the continents and oceans of the world and will then use atlases and globes to locate the Poles in relation to the United Kingdom. Next we will learn about the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles. Moving on from this, we will be learning about Polar animals, Inuits and physical features of the Poles, before learning about Polar explorations, specifically Robert Falcon Scott. Lastly, we will discuss climate change, pollution and the impact on the icecaps. We will conduct a pollution walk of the local area and think about what we can do on a smaller scale to reduce pollution in our own environment.

In science, our topic will be, 'Living things and their habitats'. We will be observing differences and categorizing whether something is dead, alive or if it has never been alive. Then, we will explore microhabitats in the school ground, make observations and recording these. Next we will understand how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different animals, how creatures are adapted to their own habitat, before learning about food chains and the transfer of the sun's energy through these. Due to the Christmas period and Christmas art becoming our focus last term, our design and technology will be continued this term. The children will be investigating different types of bread, before designing and making a healthy sandwich. They will conduct product research before and evaluate their product after they have made their food item. In music, the children will learn to sing the song, 'I wanna play in a band,' which is a song written for children to learn about the genre Rock. They will then play percussion instruments with the song and play in an ensemble. In RE this term, the children will be learning about the religion of Islam, where they will answer the question, 'Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?' We will share stories that help to show how Muslims think of God (Allah) and how following God shows them ways to behave. We will think about how praying 5 times a day demonstrates a Muslim's commitment to God and identify objects that are significant to Muslims.

PE will continue to take place on a Wednesday and a Friday. *Please make sure your children have their correct PE kits with them on these days. Please ensure this includes tracksuit bottoms and a warm top.* This term, PE will be gymnastics with Miss Wozniak and invasion games with myself.

Big write will continue to take place every other Friday, with the first Big Write of the term taking place on Friday 18th January. 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).

Homework will continue to 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 or act as revision. *Your child should spend about 20 minutes on a homework task and no more. I am more than happy to work with the children, on their homework, during school time if they are finding something tricky.* In addition to this, please also continue to practise handwriting, spelling and timestables little and often.

We hope the children are refreshed and ready for an engaging term ahead. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Mrs. Hannah Stewart, Mrs. Lisa Smith  
Leopard Class team.

