



Bratton Primary School

Engagement - Resilience - Integrity

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Meerkat Class Curriculum Letter: Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 2 in Meerkat Class! We hope you have had an enjoyable half term break. The Meerkat pupils have completed their first portion of the year, and have produced some strong and consistently improving work, including some impressive pieces of extended writing linked to our topic of World War One, some wonderful poetry inspired by famous WWI poets (they have typed up their poems in Microsoft Word on the laptops, formatted them, and they will be compiled into a class anthology for each pupil to take home), and some notable artwork, influenced by Picasso, which has been displayed in the hall and has received a lot of positive comments and feedback from staff and students. They have completed progress tests in maths, reading comprehension, and grammar, punctuation and spelling, providing excellent feedback in terms of both class and individual strengths, also giving us clear areas to focus on for development.

We continue to have high expectations of the pupils in terms of achievement, engagement, and behaviour in Meerkat class. We emphasise to the children that demonstrating excellent attitudes and positive learning behaviours both inside and outside the classroom is their responsibility to themselves as individuals but also as role models for the younger children in the school. A lot of the Meerkats have been developing their Growth Mindset approach to learning, pushing themselves to further their achievement and perfect their work on a regular basis. We will be continuing to focus on this, as well as incorporating further metacognitive techniques and brain elasticity strategies to support high quality learning.

As we move into Term 2, Mr Lynn will be working predominantly with the Year 5 pupils for English and Maths, teaching skills planned by and with Miss Pickup, while Miss Pickup focuses on the Year 6 pupils, thus allowing each cohort to receive individualised support and a close, year-group specific, skills focus. Mrs Jeffery will continue to support in the role of class teaching assistant. The class will work as a whole on topic work, with Mr Lynn extracting small groups to develop Maths or English skills. Our class topic will remain World War One, which the children are very engaged with, until Christmas.

In English, the Meerkats will be continuing to read a range of stimulus texts based on our World War One topic, including poetry, letters, diary extracts, and articles, to develop

their understanding of different genres, and to give them a broader literary context. We will complete our class novel, *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo, and the children will be developing their writing skills through Big Writes and further extended tasks based on their reading, creating descriptive pieces using figurative language, newspaper reports using fact and opinion, and speeches using persuasive techniques. The children will also focus closely on grammar, spelling, punctuation, and handwriting, developing specific skills within their writing and also practising skills explicitly in their G.H.A.S.P. sessions. Children will strengthen their writing by working with individual feedback, and using learning goals to push their skills further. In Guided Reading, the children will work on their own, with partners, and in small groups, to strengthen their reading skills and comprehension, rotating through a range of activities and challenges.

In Maths, the Meerkats will be completing work on division, and then focussing on the main Term 2 topic of fractions, decimals, and percentages. They will work on each of these three areas individually, and also learn to relate ideas between them and convert between the different formats. They will continue to be regularly challenged with Mental Maths exercises, and will complete work on graphs, statistics, and averages linked to both their History studies of World War One, and their Science topics.

Our World War One topic will form the focus for History, Geography, D.T., Music, P.E., P.S.H.E., R.E., and even some of our Science studies. We will continue to explore a range of texts linked to World War One, comparing sources and learning about key events of the war, and the impact of the war. We will incorporate Geography into our studies, using maps and geographical information to study the layout of Europe and the countries involved in the war. We aim to complete a D.T. project where the children will be building scale models of World War One tanks, researching, designing, and putting together their ideas, working in small groups, using team skills and shared ideas. We will link Science to P.S.H.E. by looking at health, heart rates and fitness, and to Maths by using statistics to draw graphs to chart heart rate, and to calculate averages.

Finally, a reminder that all Meerkats have been issued with a Homework folder in which to keep: their Reading Journal, homework sheets and books, and letters for your attention. I would like to reiterate our expectation that pupils should complete at least five reads per week at home and record their reflections. Reading Journals are checked every Monday. Miss Pickup, as the school's 'Reading Champion', will expect every Meerkat to have a reading book with them at all times, and to read at every opportunity! We have been delighted to see many pupils reading books by authors we have focussed on in English and Guided Reading, with children enjoying tales by Michael Morpurgo and Roald Dahl, as well as books linked to our war topic. Thank you for your support so far, and please continue to encourage as much reading as possible at home – it is so important! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns,

Best wishes,

Miss Jennifer Pickup, Mrs Trish Jeffery, and Mr Fintan Lynn