



Bitham Brook Primary School

Hands
Every child knows
how to be part of a
team



Head
Every child a good
learner

Heart
Every child knows
they are valued

Autumn Newsletter Terms 1 and 2 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to all parents who have children in Mr Wood's, Mrs Marshall's and Miss Crossley's classes.

Our theme for this term is 'Victorians'. In the topic of 'Victorians' the children will be studying: Queen Victoria - her life, family, portraits and homes; the major inventions that helped the daily life of Victoria's subjects and workhouses and we will be using census data, maps, buildings and the advent of railways to develop local history. This topic will help the children to develop not only their history knowledge but also their literacy, history, geography, numeracy, art, design and technology, computing and literacy skills.

How you can help at home – Library books and the following websites will be useful: www.wikipedia.com
www.bbc.co.uk/primaryhistory and www.primarynuggets.co.uk

In **English** we will be looking at the 'Tale of Peter Rabbit' to link with our Victorian topic. As a class, we will be discussing the story and characters. We will use the story to produce a range of work, from diary entries to book reviews and short, narrative scenes. We will be working on using pronouns to avoid repetition in our writing and look at structuring our writing with paragraphs. We will also be exploring how our vocabulary choices can create different effects for our reader and writing.

We will check **Reading Diaries** on a Monday. It is our expectation that the children will read on at least three separate occasions and at least 15 minutes to an adult during the week. If they have not had this opportunity, or if they have forgotten to have their diary signed, we will provide extra opportunities for them to read during break or lunch. The whole class will visit the library during the week, but if they finish a book through the course of the week, they are welcome to ask us to visit the library to choose a new book at any time. This can be useful if they want some more specific advice about book choices. **Reading Books and Diaries MUST be in school each day please.**

In **Maths** we will be beginning this term by looking at place value. This will include identifying, representing and estimating numbers using different representations. We will be recognising the place value of each digit in a three and four digit number and ordering these numbers. Also, we will be finding 10 more and 10 less of a given number. After this we will move on to using mental method of addition and subtraction and moving on to using formal written methods. We will be solving problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value and more complex addition and subtraction.

Our **Science** topic is Electricity. The children will start the topic by looking at electrical safety and identifying electrical household items. Children will be introduced to simple electrical circuits this term and will attempt some investigations. We will investigate conductors, insulators and building circuits for a different purpose.

In **Music** we will be focussing on play the glockenspiel using our new interactive, online scheme of work: 'Charanga'. Our lessons will include musical games, singing and playing instruments with or without notation to explore this genre. Music lessons for pupils who learn guitar, woodwind, flute and violin have been announced and timetables for Terms 1 and 2 will be stuck in our windows.

The main topics we will be covering in **Computing** this term are: using search technologies to locate and evaluate information online; define a spam email or message and explain what to do when receiving a spam email or message; understand that websites may not contain truthful information; create a website using software and evaluate peers' websites using given criteria. The children will also be programming using Espresso Coding software.

In **PE** this term we will be using the Run Jump Throw scheme of work designed by British Athletics. It will consist of teaching the children skills to: throw and pass the ball correctly; move feet to be ready to catch the ball and recognise how different activities build up speed or strength. **Children will be expected to have suitable kit in school, e.g. white top and black shorts for indoor PE and suitable kit for outdoor sessions** where we will be doing sessions involving invasion games such as netball, rugby and football.

In **French** we will be revisiting some of the vocabulary we covered last year as well as introducing some new concepts. The concepts we will be covering this term are: greetings, age, birthday, where we live, days of the week, months of the year and numbers to 31. During our French lessons we will be learning about the basic grammar in French, which involves looking at the different word classes i.e. how do we identify whether a word is a noun or not. Throughout our French lessons children will be encouraged to engage in conversations, ask and answer questions, express opinions and respond to those of others.

In **RE** we will be looking at Christianity this term. We will begin by sharing our knowledge of Christianity and discussing what we already know. We will be discovering the origins of Christianity and recognise Christian values. Also, we will be exploring the Church and understanding the importance of Christian symbols.

In **Art** our focus is on the artist William Morris and we will be looking at his art work and discovering the importance of the Arts and Crafts Movement. We will be observing and sketching natural objects in lessons. We will then be designing and creating our own printing block inspired by William Morris.

Class Visits

We will be visiting Sevington Victorian School near Devizes during the final week of November.

Mr Wood, Mrs Marshall and Miss Crossley
Years 3 and 4 Teachers