



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

We are pleased to report that the children have already ably demonstrated the core Bitham Brook strengths of resilience and adaptability as they have had to deal with some of the teething problems of our new extension! We have spoken to a few of you already and hope to catch up with more of you over the next few weeks as the route to the new classrooms and to Mrs Hancock's class becomes a little clearer!

The children in upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5/6) this term are thinking about 'Our World'. This covers a number of themes across the curriculum such as habitats in Science, biomes in Geography and creation stories in RE.

In English, we will also be very much engaged with our topic when looking at narrative, persuasive and biographical writing and the study of imagery. We are using some of Hogarth's paintings for inspiration for our writing.

In Numeracy we will be concentrating on consolidating children's understanding of place value and the four operations involving decimals. We will also spend time on all aspects of fractions and familiarising the children with the format of the arithmetic tests they will face in the end of KS2 assessments. As always, we pay particular focus on the children's knowledge of times tables. They should be practising at home whenever the opportunity arises. Confidence with quick mental recall of multiplication and corresponding division facts are vital!

Our Science work for this term is Habitats. The children will plan and carry out scientific investigations and will examine how living things adapt to their environment and the part that we play in protecting or damaging our world.

In Art we will be looking at more work by Hogarth. The Enraged Musician shows his annoyance at being disturbed by all the goings on in the street outside his window. We will be developing our sketching skills and working towards a large class modern interpretation.

In Computing, we will be building on the coding skills that the children have been developing. We will also be looking at the important issue of e-safety. ***Do you know what your children are doing on the computer?!***

In RE we will be looking at creation stories from different faiths and cultures. In PSHE, we will be thinking about children's rights and responsibilities.

In Music we will be preparing and rehearsing for a lunchtime performance to be given in All Saints Church as part of the Westbury Music Festival. We will also be spending much of Term 2 preparing for the KS2 Christmas Performance. During our French lessons we are looking at greetings.

I am pleased that we are being joined again this year by Caroline Newman aka The Dance Lady. Our classes will receive dance tuition on Wednesday afternoon for Terms 1 and 2 and, after Christmas, Caroline will be offering an after-school dance club in preparation for the West Wiltshire Dance Festival. Our PE lessons for Terms 1 and 2 will also be revising some of the key skills of running, jumping and throwing. We will be working on invasion games and focussing on attacking and defending and applying these skills to game situations.

Although we have timetabled PE slots, please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit in school **at all times** including the correct fitting footwear! If your child wears earrings on a PE day they will be provided with 'micropore' tape if they are unable to remove them. You may want to consider not sending them to school with earrings on those days.

Your child should be reading for at least 15 minutes per night and should have their Reading Diary and Reading Book with them at school every day. Please sign their Reading Diary to be checked on a Monday morning.

Following on from the great success of the Brain Builders homework which was launched last year, we will be starting that again very shortly. A timetable for receiving and submitting homework will be in the front of the Brain Builders book.

Any support you can offer with any of the things we are doing is always greatly appreciated and will benefit the children. Please don't hesitate to ask me if you have any questions or uncertainties.

Best wishes

David Bold, Annie Brisland, Sarah Hancock, Clare Robertson & Mike Slater
Year 5/6 Teachers