



Giraffes

We stick our necks out and have a go!



Year 2, Autumn 1 2020

Welcome Back, Giraffes!

I hope everyone has managed to keep well and had an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday despite these unusual times. I also hope that you and your children are looking forward to beginning a new school year which, will hopefully be filled with health and wellbeing, loads of fun, hard work and great achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Mrs Breitigam and I am looking forward to meeting all of you and collaborating, so that, together, we can achieve wonderful things this year.

I would also like to reveal some of the amazing things that we are going to be learning about this half term.

Beachcombers!

Our new topic for this term is 'Beachcombers!'

So, pack up some sandwiches, pick up a fishing net and keep your eyes peeled because we are off to the coast to go beachcombing!

This half term, we will virtually visit a local beach to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the seashore and explore rock pools to find living and non-living things.

Bringing shells, pebbles and seaweed back to the classroom through photos and videos will help us to learn about a wide range of coastal plants and creatures.

Maps and film footage will help us to find out more about the coast and we will create a wide variety of artwork. At the end of the project, we will decide how we should look after the coastal environment and how the beach can be kept clean. We will use our ICT skills to create a final presentation including photographs, captions and sound files.



In **English** we will read a range of seaside stories and use the coast/sea/ocean as settings for our writing.

We will be focusing on the story of 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'Tiddler' by Julia Donaldson, 'The Little Mermaid' and information books to write labels, lists and captions, tongue-twisters, stories, letters and postcards. We will also use the internet to search for facts about the seashore and use our knowledge to write our own non-fiction texts (instructions and fact files about sea creatures).

In **Maths**, we will be focusing on number recognition and place value, counting forwards and backwards in 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s to 100 and learning number bonds to 10, 20 and 100. We will also be learning about length and mass and will be identifying 2D and 3D shapes and their properties.

In **Science**, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. We will be sorting things into groups of living things/things that have been alive and non-living things, exploring different habitats and learning about food chains and basic needs of animals.

In **Computing**, we will be learning to recognise common uses of information technology beyond school. Web searches and digital presentations.

In **History**, we will be studying sea explorers from the past, including Christopher Columbus and Sir Francis Drake.

In **Geography**, we will be focusing on the continents and the oceans, as well as identifying coastal features.

In **Art and Design** we will be recreating 'Water Lilies' by Claude Monet, we will be making 3D models and we will use sketch books and sand to create seaside landscapes.

In **Music**, we will be learning songs from around the UK.

In **RE**, we will be exploring whether it's possible to be kind to everyone all the time, using stories from the Bible as a teaching point.

How can you help your child?

- Listen to them read each day. There is a book in their book bag and their key words are there too, if they have them. When they do their reading, please make a note in their reading record (this can be your signature or a longer comment).
- Ask them questions about what they have read.
- Encourage them to practise their spellings every day.
- Support them in completing their homework.
- Go to your local library to find books about their current topic (**if you are comfortable with that**).
- Ensure your child wears their P.E kit (short or long sleeves and shorts or jogging bottoms depending on weather conditions) on days when they have **PE** or **Forest School** lessons. **The PE kit should be worn to school on the PE / Forest School day.**
- Provide a **named** water bottle for them to use in class. These can be purchased in the school office for £1.

Weekly routines

- **PE** is on **Thursdays and Fridays**- children should come to school wearing their P.E kit.
- **Forest School** is on **Tuesday**
- **Spellings** will be sent home on **Fridays** and the children will be tested on the next **Friday**.
- **Homework** is set on a **Thursday** and is due in by the following **Tuesday**.



Key Dates

- **19th-23rd October** – Book Week.
- **23rd October** – Last day of the half term

And finally,

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Mrs Breitigam, Mrs White and Miss Jones

