



Giraffes

We stick our necks out and have a go!



Year 2, Autumn 1, 2021

Welcome Back!

A warm welcome back to Barleyhurst Park for the new academic year!

Hopefully everybody has had a lovely summer break and is feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting year ahead as part of the Giraffes class. The children have already impressed me with their hard work and excellent attitude to learning; something I am sure will continue throughout the year.

Firstly, I would like to reveal some of the amazing things we are going to learn about this half term.

Beachcombers!

Do you like to be beside the seaside? That's good, because you're about to become expert beachcombers.

Our 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!

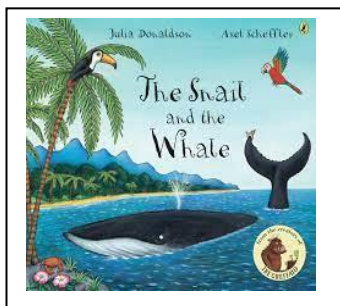
This half term, we will virtually visit a 'local' beach to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the seashore and explore rock pools to find living and non-living things.

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

Maps and videos 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 can kick back in a deckchair and do a little reading. 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 '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 the 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 finding number bonds to 5, 10, 20 and 100. We will also be learning to add and subtract one and two-digit numbers within 100 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 look at prints or search online for famous paintings of the sea. We will also observe the use of visual elements such as colour, line and texture and use paint or other materials, including collage, to create an imaginative seascape. We will be making 3D models of seashore creatures from clay, demonstrating certain techniques, such as rolling, coiling, carving, smoothing and joining.



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 short 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 PE kit** (short or long sleeves and shorts or jogging bottoms depending on weather conditions) on the days they have **PE** lessons.
- 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 **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays**- children should come to school wearing their PE kit.
- **Spellings** will be sent home on **Fridays** and the children will be tested on the following **Friday**.
- **Homework** is set on a **Thursday** and is due in by the following **Tuesday**.



Key Dates

- **18th-22nd October** – Book Week.
- **22nd October** – Last day of the half term

And finally,

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me or a member of the Year 2 team.

Mrs Breitigam

