



Sandgate Primary School

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Headteacher: **Mr M Green**

11th February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Wednesday 27th February, we will be introducing all children in the school to a stimulus, which they will use to begin to generate a piece of writing of their choice. This is something we have done before and it is a great opportunity for children to write anything from a story to a non-chronological report. Using the same resource across the whole school allows for fantastic collaborative opportunities, and for this particular resource, we would also like to invite you into school between 9.00 and 10.00am on 27th February to begin to write with your child/children. Our main hall will be available from 8.30am with tea and coffee so that you can drop your child off and then come straight in, ready to head to classes at 9.00am. If you are unable to make it on the day, you might wish to have a look at the resource beforehand and perhaps begin to work on something at home, ready to send into school with your child on the 27th February.

The children will continue to work on their chosen piece of writing over the remainder of the day or the next few days, ready to share with you once they are finished.

Link to stimulus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SabxJ0nqKIE> (or just search for 'Orca deploy their special weapon' on YouTube).

We will also be placing a link to this on the class blogs for easy access.

Please see the back of this letter for more information on the resource.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Evans'.

Mr Evans

Deputy Headteacher / English Leader

Background:

Orcas, or killer whales, are one of the world's most powerful predators. They feast on marine mammals such as seals, sea lions and even whales, employing teeth that can be four inches long. They are known to grab seals right off the ice. They also eat fish, squid and seabirds.

Killer whales shot to fame through the iconic film *Free Willy*, but also through aquatic shows, which later led to criticism by wildlife activists. SeaWorld in particular faced significant criticism for the size of its pens, reaching fever-pitch with the release of "Blackfish" in 2013, and, in 2016, SeaWorld eventually announced that it would cease all breeding programmes.

Useful questions to ask when introducing the resource:

With sound off:

- What is the video about?
- How many different species of animal did you see?
- Can you name any of the animals in the video?
- Have you ever seen animals like this in an aquarium?
- What does the movement of the fish make you think of?
- What sounds do you think you would hear if you were there?

With sound on:

- What is the video about?
- What was the purpose of the video?
- Why do the orcas have two names?
- Why is it important to preserve different species?
- What do you think life is like under the sea?

Useful vocabulary:

- Adjectives: vast, silent, expanse, azure, cloud, shallow, beautiful, tempestuous, infinite, tranquil, turbulent, uncharted, troubled, stormy, tremendous, tropical, Caribbean.
- Useful non-fiction terminology: on the other hand, however, it might be said, many have argued, it could be said, whilst it's true that, moreover, despite this, considering.

Useful writing ideas:

- Explain [how conservationists preserve aquatic life, how aquariums breed fish].
- Write instructions for how to [create your own aquarium, clean a fish tank, look after a pet fish, conserve aquatic life, scuba dive, float on the water, swim].
- Write a non-chronological report about [the oceans, orcas, a specific aquatic animal, conservation, David Attenborough, the Lost City of Atlantis, rising sea levels, the poles, swimming, a famous swimmer, open-water swimming, swim/boating world records].
- Recount [your last visit to the beach, a time you've been aboard a boat, what it feels like underwater, how you felt when you first saw *Blue Planet 2*, a newspaper report].
- Write a persuasive piece to get people to [stop using as much plastic, pay to help look after the oceans, sponsor a whale, lobby government for change].
- Write a discussion about whether [killer whales should be bred in captivity, conservationists should criticise zoos/aquariums, plastic should be banned].
- Write a story about [the Lost City of Atlantis, being aboard a boat/ship, pirates, a moral, being a whale, a quest to find the...].
- Write a poem which [captures the emotion of a species in captivity, shows what it's like to be a whale, captures the idea of a vast ocean].

Other useful resources:

- National Geographic – Orcas – <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/o/orca/>
- Atlantis – <https://truththeory.com/2018/02/17/7-things-probably-didnt-know-lost-city-atlantis/>
- SeaWorld – https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/mg7qdb/seaworld-cant-afford-to-get-rid-of-orcas
- Free Willy clip – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hUpZmFw98&app=desktop>
- Supposed lost Atlantis (critical literacy) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbenuEzWgQk>