

## Year 5 Newsletter - Autumn Term 2019

Please read this termly newsletter, it is intended to help you to assist your son or daughter with their studies and is an extension of our home-school partnership.

In such a newsletter, we can only provide a brief outline but we hope it will give some idea of the areas that we shall be looking at this term. Other information can also be found on our website – [www.heronsgate.org.uk](http://www.heronsgate.org.uk)

### **Year 5 Staff**

Petrels: Mrs Rebecca Oubridge-Lyons – Year Manager

Penguins: Miss Melissa Robinson

Pelicans: Miss Michelle Eddy

Puffins: Mr Ian Dobson

### **CURRICULUM NEWS:**

Let's travel back 5000 years to ancient Egypt, cruising along the Nile and entering a world of mysteries, curses and mummies. This half term, we are going to learn first-hand about the gruesome, yet fascinating, process of mummification. We will write a report about Howard Carter's famous discovery and use different sources to research Tutankhamun's tomb. We will also consider whether it was right to open Tutankhamun's tomb, or whether it should have been left as it was. Our work will inspire us to write some exciting Egyptian mystery stories and non-fiction books and the internet will provide us with information to make fact files. We will draw Egyptian artefacts in detail, focusing on symbols and design features. Studying historical sources will help us learn more about the Pharaohs, the Egyptian gods and ancient religious beliefs. We will find out about the food that was eaten at the time.

**English:** We will be writing a range of different text types, including:

Chronological reports, fact files, research skills, mystery stories and play scripts. We will also look at various new grammar skills, whilst practicing the skills acquired in previous years.

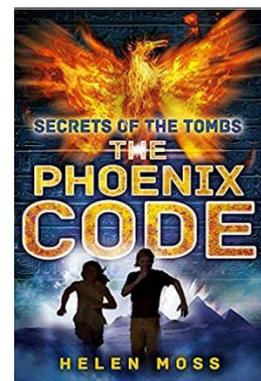
**Spellings:** Children will focus on ten words a week, which will be sent home with the half termly homework project. Whilst we will practice these through our 'Fast Learning' sessions. They should, also have the opportunity to practice at home.

**Guided Reading:** Guided reading sessions will take place 4 times a week, as well as 5 English lessons. During these sessions, children will take part in focused reading activities to develop their understanding of different text types and become immersed in a class text. They will be encouraged to ask questions about what they have read.

**Maths:** The current curriculum for Maths contains a higher percentage of number work and more focus on using and applying what the children can do mathematically in investigations and problem solving scenarios. This is taught through our 'Maths No Problem' program introduced three years ago and has shown great success. Children will continue to build their knowledge of place value by working with numbers up to a million. They will gain confidence in using the four operations with larger numbers and extended their fluency by using these in various problem solving and reasoning challenges.

**Art & Design:** Drawing artefacts, hieroglyphic, canopic pots, bread making.

**History:** Ancient Egypt



**PE:** Children will have two sessions per week, one Games and one PE. This is a compulsory part of the curriculum. This year we are introducing PE ready. This means your child is expected to attend school in their PE kit on the days they have PE and Games lessons. In the first half term, the children will develop their skills of teamwork in the game of Tag Rugby. To link with this, they will learn a version of the Haka, then develop some of their own moves in a creative 'dance' unit.

**PE READY DAYS:**

**Petrels:** Tuesday and Thursday

**Penguins:** Tuesday and Wednesday

**Pelicans:** Monday and Thursday

**Puffins:** Thursday and Friday

**Homework:** Half termly projects linked to the topic will continue to be set, with a choice of different styles of presentation for children to choose from. They only need to complete one task, with the expectation it is completed and handed in on or before the last Monday of the half term. All homework projects will be shared with the class and awarded House Points for effort, content and presentation. In addition, a weekly Maths and grammar activity will be sent home on Mondays, due in by Thursday of the same week. The children will be given a homework book to stick their homework into. The task will be marked with the teacher on Thursdays and will be awarded House Points for completing this on time.

**How can you support your child at home?**

- Hear your child read or discuss what they are reading
- Encourage them to practise their weekly spellings, TTRockstars and SUMDOG as we set challenges on these forums as well
- Encourage them to use their mental maths to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers in everyday life, for example there are 7 weeks left of term – how many days at school is that?
- Ensure your child is confident at telling the time. If they are, can they calculate with time? How long until...?
- Support them with their homework projects – we don't mind if it is a team effort
- Ask your child about their learning – can they explain something they have learned to you?



Help your child prepare for their project: It's amazing that a civilisation from 5000 years ago still influences the way we live today, from mathematics to bowling! Why not try a variety of fruits for dessert that the ancient Egyptians would buy from their local market? You could taste juicy cantaloupes, sweet dates or flavoursome plums. You could also visit your local library to learn about the amazing world of ancient Egypt. Alternatively, use online maps to look at famous Egyptian landmarks and track the course of the Nile.

**TRIPS & ACTIVITIES:** After the October half term, our new topic will be Stargazers. To support and inspire this topic, we will be travelling to The National Space Centre on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019. More details will follow.



**Autumn 2**

Journey through space – the final frontier! Let's take a trip to the stars, planets and suns and discover the amazing wonders of the night sky. During this half term, we'll read information texts to find out about the Solar System and the Sun, using mnemonics to help us remember the facts. We'll make a Solar System and investigate the cycle of day into night. We'll learn about Galileo, the 'father' of modern astronomy and his famous astronomical discoveries. Taking on the roles of the planets, we'll use movement to demonstrate the motions of the planets and moons. We'll investigate lunar myths and write astronaut poetry. Then we'll make a space shuttle or satellite, testing the materials for durability, and we'll program toys to explore a lunar landscape.

