

Year 6 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 covering this term. Other information can also be found on our website – www.heronsgate.org.uk.

Year 6 Staff

Falcons: Mrs Cravo – Year Manager and Phase Leader

Hawks: Mrs Hunt

Eagles: Mrs Timmins

Kestrels: Mr Wilson



CURRICULUM NEWS – Autumn 1:

Ship ahoy! We're off on an exciting expedition with Charles Darwin and his crew on HMS *Beagle*. Can you trace his route across the vast ocean? Stop at the magical Galápagos Islands to see the amazing species that helped Darwin develop his theory of evolution by natural selection. Do you know what's so special about a lava lizard, or why the blue-footed booby has blue feet? See how animals adapt to their environment over time and meet some of the world's greatest explorers and naturalists! Imagine how humans will evolve in millions of years. It's a scary thought! Ready to trace the origin of species? Let's set sail!

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

Diaries, explanations, letters and newspaper reports. Our primary focus will be on the content, clarity and cohesion of the writing as opposed to text features. Application of spellings and grammar taught will also be key to children's progression. Children will have two SPAG lessons throughout the week where they will recap previously learnt skills and learn new skills which will be recapped in their English sessions.

Spellings: Children will focus on approximately 8 words a week, which will be sent home with the half termly homework project. Whilst we will practice these through our 'Fast Learning' sessions of which there are 4 per week, it would be highly beneficial for them to practise these at home too.

Guided Reading: Guided reading sessions will take place 4 times a week. 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 and make appropriate inferences based on what they have read. Children will complete practice SATS reading questions throughout the year in order to teach and model best responses.

Maths: In Year 6, the children will be split into six classes based on their needs and capabilities. This is to ensure that all children are supported and sufficiently challenged in order to meet their full potential. There will be a strong focus on arithmetic, particularly in relation to number and place value and the four operations. This is to secure their knowledge and increase speed. In addition to this, children will be challenged with reasoning questions which encourage them to apply their skills. Children will be taught how to approach SATS style questions effectively.

Art & Design: Sketching of plants and animals through observation and the use of magnifying glasses and USB microscopes! We will also be doing some detailed shell sketches using fine ink pens.

Science: the children will be involved in learning about Darwin's theory of evolution and testing different theories. They will have to apply their knowledge of investigations, plan, execute and evaluate their findings to draw appropriate conclusions.

PE: Children will have two sessions per week, one outdoors (Games) and one indoors (PE). This is a compulsory part of the curriculum and to maximize the time the children are active, 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 abilities through multi skills.

PE READY DAYS:

Falcons: Tuesday and Wednesday

Hawks: Monday and Tuesday

Eagles: Monday and Wednesday

Kestrels: Monday and Thursday

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. It must be completed to a high standard and handed in on or before the last Monday of each half term. All homework projects will be shared with the class and 5 Marvelous Me points awarded for effort, content and presentation.

In addition, a weekly Maths activity will be sent home on Mondays and will be due in by Thursday of the same week – this will be set by the maths group teacher. The children will be given a homework book to stick their homework into. The task will be marked with the teacher on Thursdays. In Year 6, children will also be given a weekly SPAG activity to complete. This will also be marked with the class teacher during one of the two weekly SPAG sessions. Maths and SPAG homework will be rewarded with 1 MME point. Our Spanish teacher Miss Kempton will provide the children with their Spanish homework every two weeks and will make it clear when this is due.

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, use SPAG.com, 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
- Allow your child to go on iHub to practice



TRIPS & ACTIVITIES: This half term as part of our topic on Darwin, we will be visiting the Tring museum on Tuesday 24th September (Falcons/Eagles) and Wednesday 25th September (Hawks/Kestrels) during which the children will take part in an exciting workshop.

Autumn 2

Text messages, emails, websites, blogs and podcasts – there are so many ways to communicate. Learn how to set up a class blog and build a homepage on a subject of your choice. Suggest ways of improving your school website and hopefully the headteacher will listen to your ideas! Discover the movers and shakers in the world of technology – the people who've shaped the modern world. Perhaps you might be a visionary for the next generation. Build robots and circuits, break codes and investigate gadgets galore. Why not write a thriller narrative in the style of Anthony Horowitz? Then, on request from MI99, build a website for a new Spy School. What pages will it need? One for gadgets? A secret lunch menu? You decide. Let's start today on Tomorrow's World!

