

**Year 3 and 4 Newsletter Autumn Term 2020**

We are delighted to be welcoming your child to Heronsgate school as they start the next stage in their school life or as they return as year 4's. 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)

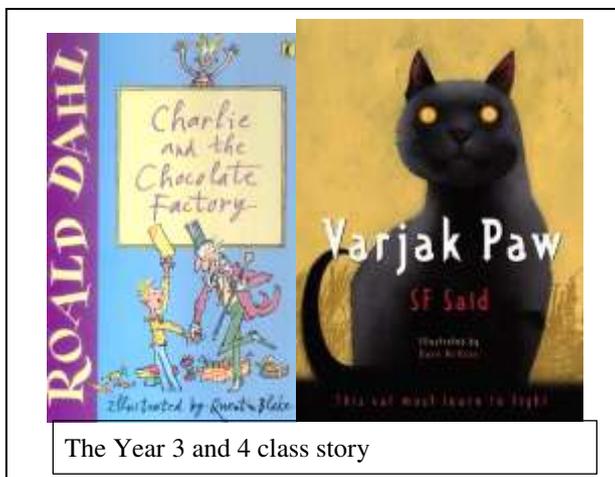
If you have any additional questions, please talk to your class teacher or the year manager or lower key stage phase leader. We hope your child's transition back into school will be as smooth as possible.

**Year 3**

- Nightingales – Mrs Fisher LKS2 - Phase Leader
- Wrens – Mrs Graban
- Sparrows – Mr Paine

**Year 4**

- Swans Year 3/4 Mrs Oubridge-Lyons - Year 4 Manager
- Kingfishers – Mrs Williams
- Hérons – Mrs Gardner-Potter / Mrs Hynds
- Moorhens - Miss King



**CURRICULUM NEWS:**

**Year 3 - Autumn 1 / Year 4 Autumn 2**

Open wide – let's take a look inside. We're on a voyage of discovery to investigate the busy world inside your body. Do you have a toothy grin or a winning smile? Take dental impressions and test the effects of sugary substances on your pearly whites. Follow a tasty morsel as it makes its way through your digestive system, helped by some mouthwatering saliva. And don't forget the importance of good hygiene at both ends. And whilst we're talking business, could you recognise an animal just by its poo? Are you brave enough to take the challenge? Make a working model of the digestive system and use it to persuade others to eat healthily. Learn how to look after this marvellous belching, squelching, mixture-making machine we call our body

**Year 4 Autumn 1 / Year 3 Autumn 2**

What's that noise? A bash? A crash? A shake, a rattle or a low, bass hum? Which do you prefer – an acoustic singer or a booming brass band? A solitary voice singing sweetly and quietly or a magnificent choir lifting the roof? Take out your ear plugs as you journey through the valley of sound and find and discover how sounds are made and which sounds travel the furthest. We will investigate how to reduce how far sound travels and all about the ear.

**English:** Narrative, explanations, poetry, fact files and persuasive texts. We will also look at various new grammar skills, whilst practicing the skills acquired in previous years.

**Spellings**

Spelling & Grammar: Children will continue to focus different words each week, lists will be sent home. The project homework will be sent home termly.

**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 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 which was introduced four years ago which has shown great success. This term children will be looking at place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

**Science:** Linked science investigations: What conducts electricity? How do plugs work? Can you make a circuit from play dough? Human ear, how sound travels, investigating how to insulate sound...

**PE:** Children will have two sessions per week. This is a compulsory part of the curriculum

**PE READY DAYS:**

Nightingales – Thursday and Friday  
Sparrows – Wednesday and Thursday  
Wrens – Wednesday and Friday

Swans - Tuesday and Wednesday  
Kingfishers – Monday and Friday  
Hérons – Monday and Wednesday  
Moorhens – 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 Tuesday 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 activity will be sent home on Mondays, due in by Thursday in the same week. The task will be marked with the teacher on Thursdays and will be awarded House Points for completing this on time, the homework will also be set via showbie your child will be shown how to access it.

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

- Hear your child read or discuss what they are reading
- Encourage them to practice 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?



**TRIPS & ACTIVITIES: After half term we will visit.....**

**Trip:** With the uncertainty at this time, we haven't planned any trips for the Autumn Term. We do hope to have some visitors either in school or via video conferencing.