

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term

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.

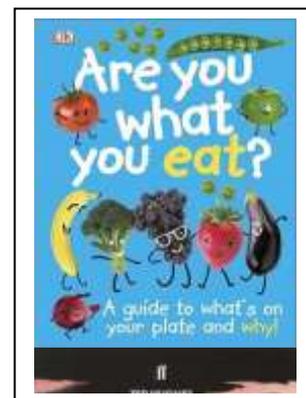
Year 4 Staff

Swans: Mrs Cravo – Year Manager & LKS2 Phase Leader
Kingfishers: Mrs Williams
Herons: Miss Eddy
Moorhens: Mrs Graban

CURRICULUM NEWS – Autumn 1: Cook Well, Eat well

Tuck in and enjoy a yummy journey of discovery, tasting fantastic fruits, venerable vegetables and tantalizing treats! Work up an appetite with delicious stories about food, have fun with a vegetable orchestra or become a fruity sculptor. Find exciting recipes to read – and write your own too. Then get busy in the kitchen making tasty dishes from across the world and discover how good food helps you grow fit and strong. Be a whizz and create your own scrumdiddlyumptious smoothie for Squeezy Joe and his team of fruity friends. And here's food for thought – if you are what you eat, what does that make YOU?

More details regarding a trip/activity to launch this topic to follow.



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

Non-chronological reports, explanations, writing instructions, persuasive writing, scientific reports, recounts and poetry. There will be a strong emphasis on talking and rehearsing before writing, as well as reading, editing and improving written work.

Spellings: Children will focus on approximately 6 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 four 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.

Maths: There will be a focus on consolidating learning from Year 3 with a particular focus on number and place value as well as written methods for all four operations. Times tables are a key focus in Year 4 as children will be expected to take the Year 4 assessment at the end of the year. They will practice their times table facts through regular access to TT Rockstars and Fast Maths at school, but further practice at home is strongly encouraged.

Design Technology: We aim for the children to participate in cooking sessions where they will be learning make a variety of recipes which they will get to eat! We will also be creating a magnetic travel game and their own version of the 'Iron Man', working with different tools and materials to design, make and evaluate their final product.

Science: the children will be involved in learning about forces – push, pull, gravity, friction through exploring play park equipment and toys which make use of levers, magnets and the different forces to make them function.

PE: Children will have two sessions per week, one outdoors ('Games') and one indoors ('P.E.'). This is a compulsory part of the curriculum and to maximise the time the children are active, they are allowed to attend school on these days 'PE ready'. This means your child is expected to attend school in their P.E. kit on the days they have P.E. and Games lessons. In the first half term, the children will develop their abilities through swimming in P.E. and Basketball for Games. For the Autumn Term, the Y4 children will be attending swimming on a Friday for all classes as part of their PE lessons. This means your child will need to be PE ready on their GAMES day (Not PE day) and on a Friday for swimming (more details to follow).

PE READY DAYS: Children come to school in PE kit

Swans: Friday (Games) and (PE) swimming

Hérons: Monday (Games) and Friday (PE) swimming

Kingfishers: Thursday (Games)-Friday (PE) swimming

Moorhens: Wednesday (Games) and Friday (PE) swimming

Year 4 Friday swimming Autumn Term Only – other PE slots will resume in the Spring Term.

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 may complete one or two tasks. 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. The children will be given a homework book to stick their homework into. The task will be marked with the teacher on Thursdays. Maths homework will be rewarded with 1 MME point, if brought in on time.

How can you support your child at home?

- Hear your child read at least 3 times a week
- Encourage them to practise their weekly spellings, TTRockstars and SUMDOG
- 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?
- Support your child in learning to tell the time.
- 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 reading comprehension skills



TRIPS & ACTIVITIES: TBC

Autumn 2: Mighty Metals

You're an engineer, a scientist, a maker of men (iron men, of course). Explore the scientific world of forces and magnetism, metals and materials. Expand your mind as you test and trial, build and move. Which force is at play as you slide down a slide or swing on a swing? Can you explain why magnets repel and attract? Can you make a penny look shiny and new or build a steel band from pots and pans? Then, meet Hogarth the Iron Man's companion. The Iron Man wants a friend. Can you build him one? You must make him strong, sturdy and ready to rumble! If you were a metal, which one would you be? Gold, a shimmering, precious and costly mineral? Or steel, that strong and useful alloy? Maybe you're iron, malleable and easy to shape, but ready to rust! Maybe you're not a metal at all – but a force to be reckoned with!

