

## Year 6 Newsletter Autumn Term 2021

This termly newsletter 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](http://www.heronsgate.org.uk).

### **Year 6 Staff**

Hawks: Mrs Dimmock – Year Manager  
Kestrels: Mr Dobson  
Eagles: Mrs Timmins  
Falcons: Miss Robinson



### **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. SPAG lessons are incorporated into English lessons; this is where they will recap previously learnt skills as well as learning new ones.

**Spellings:** Children will focus on 10 words a week, which will be sent home with the half termly homework project. Whilst we will practice these through our 'Fast Learning' sessions during the week, it would be highly beneficial for them to practice 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:** During our daily maths lessons at the start of the term, there will be a great 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.

**Trips & Activities:** As restrictions have now lifted, we will be discovering the works of Charles Darwin, by visiting the National History Museum in Tring. Then, for our next topic an incredible visit to Duxford, to witness fantastic flying machines used in both WW1 and WW2.

**PE:** Children will have two sessions per week. This is a compulsory part of the curriculum. The children are expected to arrive in school in their PE Ready kit with suitable footwear. In the first half term, the children will develop their abilities through multi skills.

**PE Ready Days:**

**Falcons:** Tuesday and Wednesday

**Hawks:** Tuesday and Wednesday

**Eagles:** Monday and Wednesday

**Kestrels:** Wednesday 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. 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.

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 Fridays. 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 each. 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. It should be noted that the same standards of presentation and care that applies to school work also applies to all aspects of homework regardless of subject or activity.

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

- Hear your child read and/or discuss what they are reading.
- Encourage a discussion on current affairs and what issues appear in the news.
- Encourage them to practice 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 5 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...?



**Autumn 2**

Over 100 years ago the world was plunged into its most devastating conflict to date – The Great War or, as it unfortunately became known 20 years later, World War I. We will examine the causes of the war, its effects on the countries involved and its ramifications across the decades. We will also be examining its smaller-scale effects on individuals, families and children. Moving on to; siren sounds, a building crumbles, a Spitfire zooms overhead. Take cover. It's 1939 and Britain is at war. Deep down in the Anderson shelter, learn why nations are fighting and why child evacuees must make the long journey from their homes and families into unknown territory. Read the diary of Anne Frank, written whilst hiding from the terrifying storm troopers in secret annexes, and try to empathise with her hopes and fears. Make do and mend. Cook up a family meal from meagre rations. Delve deep into a bygone era, when loose lips sunk ships. And, as peace is declared, let's get ready to celebrate. Mr. Churchill says 'It's an unconditional surrender.'

