

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term 2022

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.

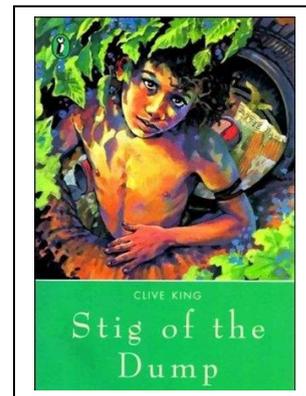
In such a newsletter, we can only provide a brief outline, but we hope it will give some idea of the areas that we shall be covering this term. Other information can also be found on our website – www.heronsgate.org.uk.

Year 4 Staff

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

CURRICULUM NEWS – Spring 1: Tribal Tales

Take a moment to step outside and stand quietly and still. Turn off all your technology and try to forget the modern world. Imagine this place 5000 years ago. What would you have seen? Head back to prehistoric times to gather berries and hunt down dinner. Unearth ancient objects and visit astonishing mystical monuments that reveal the secrets of an ancient time. Learn how the people of Britain developed over thousands of years, from the Stone Age to the Roman invasion. Work as a tribe to build a seasonal monument to celebrate the coming of spring. Then sit quietly and reflect, waiting for the sunrise. What tribal tales will you have to tell?



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

A narrative which develops suspense, reports including a non-chronological report and a variety of poetry. There will continue to 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 10 words a week, which will be sent home weekly on a Monday. 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. There will be a weekly assessment on a Friday and a termly review to assess progress.

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. Much will be linked to the texts Stig of the Dump and Stone Age Boy.

Maths: Children will continue consolidating and developing their written and mental methods for multiplication and division this term followed by fractions. Times tables will remain 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.

History: As this is a history based topic, the focus will be on children developing their knowledge and understanding of the past through investigation of artefacts and research. This will encourage them to make links between different points in history and will aid them in developing their skills such as ordering events.

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. As the children have completed their swimming sessions all PE and Games lessons will resume to their original timetable. This means the days they have to be PE ready may have changed so please check below...

PE READY DAYS: Children come to school in PE kit

Swans: Monday (PE) and Friday (Games)
Herons: Monday (Games) and Thursday (PE)
Kingfishers: Monday (PE) and Thursday (Games)
Moorhens: Wednesday (Games) and Thursday (PE)

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: Visit from Safari Stu with his exotic animals!

Spring 2: Predator

It's time to take a walk on the wild side. Find out who's coming to visit. Is it a bug munching lizard or an eagle-eyed bird of prey? Whatever it is, do you think you can handle it? Learn about creepy crocs and amazing alligators, the deadly assassin bug and the voracious Venus flytrap. Be inspired to write an informative leaflet all about your favourite predator and compose a poem about a predator or its prey. Then use what you know about the best of the beasts to create the ultimate predator; the apex of the food chain. Cross your dad with a peregrine falcon or your nan with a great white shark. What incredible species can you imagine? Feeling peckish? Let's jump aboard the food chain.

