

YEAR 5 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 5 Staff

Pelicans: Mrs Fisher – Phase Leader

Puffins: Mr Jones

Penguins: Mr Bowskill



CURRICULUM NEWS – Spring 1: Stargazers (Earth, Sun & Moon / The Solar System)

Journey through space, the final frontier. Navigate beyond the Sun, the magnificent, blazing star at the centre of our Solar System. Investigate the eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Take a look at the Moon, a celestial body that orbits Earth. Why does it appear to change shape? Compare the times of day at different places on the Earth and discover why there are seasons. How do we know the Earth is a sphere? Exploring space is probably the greatest adventure that humankind has ever undertaken. Are we alone? Or are there other life forms out there? This is primarily a science based topic involving knowledge gathering about the Sun, Moon & Earth, as well as about our Solar System. Children will also be undertaking some scientific investigations to develop their investigative skills.

English: We will be focus on writing a range of different text types, including: Creative information report about an invented animal; story writing and a biography, for example. 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 short, daily SPAG learning throughout the week where they will recap previously learnt skills and learn new skills which will be reinforced during their English sessions.

Spellings and Grammar: Children will focus on approximately 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 of which there are four per week, it would be highly beneficial for them to practice these at home too. These spellings will be set on EdShed (and also available on Showbie), which is also a fun way to learn their spellings at home and at school. They will have a weekly spelling test to monitor their learning.

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: 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 two years ago which has shown great success. This term children will continue to build their knowledge of fractions and decimals from Year 4. They will gain confidence in calculating with these within various problem solving and reasoning challenges.

Art & Design: We will be trialing an app called 'Procreate' on the ipads to develop a picture of planets in space.

PE: Children will have two sessions per week. This is a compulsory part of the curriculum. We are continuing with PE ready, so children should come to school on P.E. days dressed in full P.E. kit. In the first half term, the children will develop their abilities through multi skills. We will begin the term with hockey and dance. Please remember that no jewellery is permitted to be worn at school except plain stud earrings, which should be removed or covered with tape by your child.

PE READY DAYS:

Pelicans: Monday and Friday,
Puffins: Monday and Wednesday,
Penguins: Tuesday 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 Marvellous 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 in the class with the teacher.

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 EdShed (spellings), TT Rockstars 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 comprehension skills



TRIPS & ACTIVITIES:

We are currently organising a trip for 3rd February to The Space Centre near Leicester. It will involve an earlier than normal start and a later end to the normal school day, but further details on timings and costs will follow shortly. In addition, we hope to visit a local allotment in Spring 2, to support the learning of our topic described below.

Spring 2 Topic: Sow Grow Farm:

This project will include a mix of geography and science knowledge and skills: to explore the characteristics of land use in agricultural regions across the world, including a detailed exploration of significant environmental areas. In addition, we will be looking at life cycles of plants and animals, as well as growing various plants from seeds. This unit of learning will continue into the Summer term.

