

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 – <https://www.heronsgate.org.uk/>

Year 6 Staff:

Hawks: Mrs Fisher (Assistant Headteacher & Writing Lead)

Eagles: Mrs Timmins (Maths Lead)

Falcons: Mr Paine (Humanities Lead)

Kestrels: Mrs Walton (Music Lead)



CURRICULUM NEWS – Autumn Term 2023:

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

Story writing, information texts, diary entries, persuasive texts, explanations and a balanced argument. Our primary focus will be on the content, clarity and cohesion of the writing as opposed to text features. Writing will be taught using a model text to support developing grammar skills and how to apply appropriate structure to each text type. Application of spellings and specific grammar taught, will also be key to children's progression. Children will have short, daily 'Quick SPAG' learning throughout the week where they will recap previously learnt skills and learn new skills which will be reinforced during their English sessions. They will also have regular SATs question practice in preparation for the SATs in May 2023.

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. 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 (both written and verbal), 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 also complete practice SATs written assessments throughout the year.

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. This term, we will continue to build on previous maths skills gained and identify strengths and gaps through regular assessment and personalised learning. This is to ensure they have a thorough knowledge of the KS2 curriculum and in preparation for both SATs and moving onto secondary education.

Science: Light Theory: This unit will focus on how light travels, how we see things (including how the eye works), reflection and refractions. During weekly science lessons, the children will participate in a variety of activities: watching short video clips, reading information texts and engaging in practical investigations.

Evolution & Inheritance: Later this term, we will move onto this science-based project, which teaches children how living things on Earth have changed over time and how fossils provide evidence for this. They will learn how characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring and how variation in offspring can affect their survival, with changes (adaptations) possibly leading to the evolution of a species.

Computing: Internet Safety and Bletchley Park coding

History: Britain at War: We start Year 6 with a history theme to our topic learning. This project teaches children about the causes, events and consequences of the Second World War, the influence of new inventions on warfare, how life in Great Britain was affected and the legacy of the wars in the post-war period.

Design & Technology: Structure – ‘Playgrounds’. Children will learn some woodworking skills and working to scale to create a mini model playground within set parameters.

Art: Craft & Design: Photo Opportunity – using photography to understand abstract art and recreate a famous painting.

PHSE: (Jigsaw scheme) This term our themes are ‘Being me in My World’ and ‘Celebrating Differences’.

Religious Education: Using the Discovery RE programme, RE is taught through an inquiry approach, where each half term unit is centered around a question to help the children explore information about the history and religious practices. In Year 6, the children will focus on Christianity and Islam throughout the year.

PE: Children will have two sessions per week and this is a compulsory part of the curriculum. This term, will be basketball, football, fitness, healthy living and dance. Children are expected to wear full P.E. kit on their P.E. & Games days, but normal school uniform the rest of the week. In addition, earrings must be removed or taped up by your child on these days, and watches removed. **Please note that smart watches or any other jewellery items are not permitted to be worn at school.**

Spanish: conversational and basic vocabulary and phrases will be taught to all Year 6 children by a member of the Walton High teaching team

PE READY DAYS:

Hawks: Monday and Wednesday

Eagles: Wednesday and Thursday

Falcons: Monday and Wednesday

Kestrels: Tuesday and Wednesday

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.

A Maths activity will be sent home weekly. The children will be given a homework book to stick their homework into and the task will be marked in the class with the teacher. Some of the Maths homework will be set online through <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/> (Your child will have login details for this.) There is online help available with these tasks.

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 and use EdShed (spellings)
- 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 Sumdog: <https://www.sumdog.com/en/> and TTRockstars: <https://trockstars.com/> to practise their skills in maths.



TRIPS & ACTIVITIES:

We are currently organising a trip during the Autumn Term to support the children’s learning about the Second World War to the **Imperial War Museum at Duxford**, Cambridgeshire. This will take place for all four classes on Monday 9th October 2023. This will entail leaving school by approximately 9am and returning after the normal school day at approximately 4pm. Further details about the day and costings will follow.

Year 6 Residential Trip: Whitemoor Lakes, near Birmingham: <https://activity-centres.naycacuk.co.uk/whitemoor-lakes/> We will also be providing information about our residential trip, which we hope many of the children will be able to take part in. This will be a 3 day (2 night) ‘adventurous activities’ trip, taking place from Monday 18th March – Wednesday 20th March 2024. Details of this will follow shortly. There will be alternative activities and a day trip organised for children who do not wish to take part in the residential trip – details will be available nearer to the time.