

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.

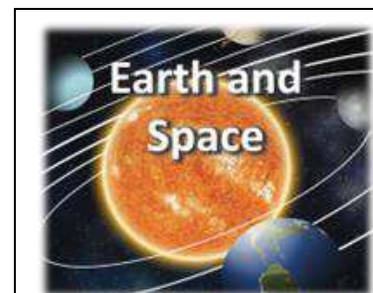
In such a newsletter, we can only provide a brief outline, but we hope it will give some idea of the areas that we shall be covering this term. Other information can also be found on our website – <https://www.heronsgate.org.uk/>

Year 5 Staff:

Penguins: Mrs Graban (Phase Leader and Science Lead)

Toucans: Miss Hudson

Kingfishers: Miss James



CURRICULUM NEWS – Spring 2024

English: We will be focusing on writing a range of different text types, including: an information text, story writing, recount letter, balanced argument and explanation.

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 '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.

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 at school during Early Learning four times a week, it would be highly beneficial for them to practice these at home too. These spellings will be set on EdShed, 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 (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 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, children will continue to build their knowledge of fractions and decimals. They will gain confidence in calculating them and use these in various problem solving and reasoning challenges.

Geography: 'Sow, Grow and Farm': children will learn about different farming types in the UK and compare with farming in different parts of the world, including North and South America. They will look at how climate zones affect the type of farming, as well as considering how far food travels and the impact that has on the environment.

Science: Children will start the Spring Term engaging with a chemistry-based unit: **Properties and Changing Materials**, where they will examine solubility, explore mixtures and how to separate them through sieving, filtering and evaporation. In the second half term, in our **'Earth and Space'** project, we will be discovering more about our solar system: the relative size and distance of the Sun, Moon and Earth, as well as how the sun appears to move across the sky and why the moon appears to change shape. Children will have weekly Science lessons during the whole year.

Art: Drawing – 'I need Space' project

Design & Technology: Design & Technology: Food – 'What could be Healthier?'

Computing: **Mars Rover 1** - Learning about the Mars Rover, exploring how and why it transfers data including instructions, and how messages can be sent using binary code.

Jigsaw: PHSE (Personal, Health, Social and Economic awareness education) is taught weekly. This term our themes are 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'.

Religious Education: Using the Discovery RE programme, RE is taught through an inquiry approach, where each half term unit is centred around a question to help the children explore information about the history and religious practices. In Year 5, the children will focus on Christianity, Sikhism and Buddhism throughout the year.

PE: Children will have two sessions per week. This is a compulsory part of the curriculum. This term they will be engaged in: Hockey, Space Dance; OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities) and indoor athletics and fitness. 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.**

PE READY DAYS:

Penguins: Monday and Friday
Toucans: Tuesday and Thursday
Kingfishers: Thursday 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 Marvellous Me points awarded for effort, content and presentation.

In addition, 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, you may use also <https://www.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/uk>
- 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 to support the children's learning about the Solar System in the second half of the Spring Term and at the start of the Summer Term. We will be visiting The National Space Centre during April. It will involve an earlier than normal start (approximately 7:50 am) and a later end to the normal school day (approx. 4:14pm), but further details will follow this half term.