

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/>

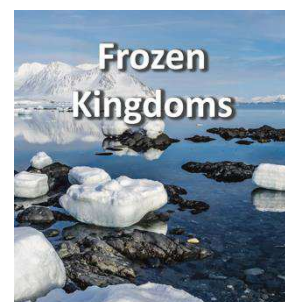
Year 6 Staff:

Hawks: Mrs Fisher (Assistant Headteacher & Writing Lead)

Eagles: Mrs Timmins (Maths Lead)

Falcons: Mr Paine (Humanities Lead)

Kestrels: Mrs Walton (Music Lead)



CURRICULUM NEWS – Spring Term 2023:

Frozen Kingdoms: As we move into the Spring term, our focus turns to geography – Frozen Kingdoms. This is where we explore the icy polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctica from the warmth of the classroom. We will be delving into the similarities and differences of these incredible landscapes and oceans, as well as discovering about animal, plant and human presence there. The children will also learn about the impact of climate change – where global warming is experienced three times faster than any other region on Earth.

Electrical Circuits and Components: Our next science project will deepen the learning from Year 4 on building and understanding electrical circuits, as well as finding out how to record circuits using scientific symbols. Different components are explored in a variety of practical investigations. This learning also links to their Design Technology unit this term, where children will use their knowledge to build a Steady Hand Game.

English: We will be focus 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. 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. 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 four times a week in school, 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 practice SATs written assessments throughout the year. This term we will be using 'SAT Buster' resources, to ensure children develop specific reading response skills for their SATs in May.

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.

Art: Drawing: 'Make My Voice Heard'

Design & Technology: We are doing 'Automata Toys' which involves making a frame for a moving cam mechanism, and builds on children woodwork skills from last term.

Computing: Big data 1 - Identifying how barcodes and QR codes work. Learning how infrared waves are used for the transmission of data while recognising the uses of RFID. Children in all year groups will have a weekly computing lesson, including a lesson each half term on an aspect of Internet Safety.

Jigsaw: PHSE (Personal, Health, Social and Economic awareness education taught weekly) Dreams and Goals; 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 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 Survival Dance, Pop Lacrosse, OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities) and gymnastics. 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:

Hawks: Monday and Wednesday
Eagles: Wednesday and Thursday
Kestrels: Wednesday and Friday
Falcons: Monday 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. In addition, Year 6 children will be set some Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar activities to further support their learning.

How can you support your child at home?

- Hear your child read or discuss what they are reading; they should record in their reading record and be signed by yourself several times a week (daily if possible)

<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:

Year 6 Residential Trip: Whitemoor Lakes, near Birmingham

<https://activity-centres.naycacuk.co.uk/whitemoor-lakes/>

There are 64 children and 6 members of staff going on the residential. This will be a 3 day (2 night) 'adventurous activities' trip, taking place from Monday 18th March – Wednesday 20th March 2024. We will hold a parent and child information evening during next half term – date and time to follow. The children not going away are going on a day trip to 'Think Tank', a fun, hands-on science museum near Birmingham on Tuesday 19th March.

We have organised a trip in the Summer Term to enrich the children's learning about the Second World War to **Bletchley Park: The Home of Coding**. This will take place for all three classes in June 2024. This will take place within the school day and will include a practical workshop during the visit.