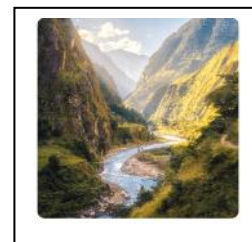


Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term 2024

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 Dimmock – Lower Key stage Phase Leader
Herons: Ms Cogger
Moorhens: Mr Bowskill



CURRICULUM NEWS Geography – Misty Mountains, Winding Rivers.

In the Geography project children will learn about the characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world, including a detailed exploration of the ecosystems and processes that shape them and the land around them.

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

Non-chronological reports, explanations, writing instructions, persuasive writing, recounts and poetry. There will be a strong emphasis on talking and rehearsing before writing, as well as reading, editing and improving written work.

Spellings: Children will focus on 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 practise these at home too.

Guided Reading: Guided reading sessions will take place 4 times a week. During these sessions, children will take part in focused VIPER 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.

Maths: There will be a focus on graphs, fractions, time and decimals. Times tables are 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.

Design and Technology: During this unit children will become secure to use a budget to plan, follow and adapt a biscuit recipe using additional ingredients.

Geography: This essential skills in this unit teaches the children about the characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world, including a detailed exploration of the ecosystems and processes that shape them and the land around them.

Science: We will learn about solids, liquids and gases and their characteristic properties. Children will observe how materials change state as they are heated and cooled, and learn key terminology associated with these processes.

Computing: Our computing lessons will develop pupils' knowledge across digital literacy, online safety, computational thinking, how computers work and hardware.

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. In the first half term, the children will develop their abilities through football, dance and OAA (outdoor adventurous activities)

PE READY DAYS: Children come to school in PE kit on the following days:

Swans: Monday and Wednesday

Hérons: Monday and Wednesday

Moorhens: Monday 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 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 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. This will alternate between a my maths activity, which will be automatically marked online and they will be given a homework book to stick their homework into on the following week. The task will be marked with the teacher before the next week's homework is handed out. 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!



TRIPS & ACTIVITIES:

During this term we will visit Dunstable Downs to explore hills and their ecosystems. In the second term, children will visit a local river or canal to answer the question 'Does nature or humans have the biggest impact on our environment?' Further information will be sent via parent mail.

