



Kestrels Class Curriculum Letter – Summer Term 2017

Teacher: Miss Ottner

Teaching assistant: Mrs Phillips

Welcome to the start to the summer term! We hope you all had a wonderful Easter holiday.

My door is always open if you have any concerns or need to speak to me about anything. A meeting can be arranged if matters need to be discussed further.

Here are a few points you may need to know for this term:

- We maintain good communication with parents through Home-School books, e-mail contact and using the school noticeboard. Please try to ensure that forms are read and returned promptly so that we can continue to offer a wide range of experiences to the children.
- PE lessons will take place on Tuesday afternoons but we would like children to have their PE kit in school every day. We do ask for white t-shirts and blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms.
- During the warmer months, please ensure that children have a water bottle in school every day.
- Kestrels are dismissed from the classroom, not from the playground as happens in other year groups. This is designed to give them greater independence and responsibility.

English

This term will see children covering a wide variety of different genres, noting the similarities and differences between different text types. We will start with a focus on Greek myths and will particularly develop skills in writing playscripts, leading on to a focus on Shakespeare and practical drama tasks later in the term. We continue to teach grammar through practical tasks, ensuring that children can apply their understanding and see how their knowledge can be helpful in their reading and writing.

Spellings will be given out at the start of the term. Spelling patterns will be taught weekly and will be tested by Mrs Hall on Tuesdays. Please ask if you need a spare copy of the words.

Maths

Arithmetic skills are a key focus this term, and children will be asked to reason and explain, trying to articulate why they would choose different methods. By focusing on some of the fundamental mathematical skills, we hope to increase children's understanding and enjoyment of maths. They will be applying their knowledge to increasingly complex real life problems, involving multiple steps and different representations, including algebra.

R.E.

Kestrels will be looking at pilgrimage across a variety of different faiths, thinking about what makes some places and some actions special and why people may choose to go on a pilgrimage.

Topic

Our initial topic this term is photography. Children will look at the development of photographic techniques and study the work of famous photographers. They will also have the chance to undertake practical work – learning about different techniques and putting them into practice.

Science

This term Kestrels will be covering evolution and inheritance. They will recognise that living things have changed over time, and that evidence for this can be found in the fossil record. They will look at how living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents and they will identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. Alongside their developing knowledge and understanding, they will be thinking about how to set up their own experiments and choose appropriate skills – observation, research, fair testing – to test hypotheses.

P.E./Games

Children will be developing skills in games and fundamental movement. Mr Dawley from GoActive will be taking the children for Games every Tuesday. These sessions will take place outside so please ensure that your child has suitable kit in school this day, including trainers. Outdoor PE takes places whenever possible, so please ensure children are ready for all weathers!

We will be starting the term with a series of swimming lessons at Stonar pool.

PSHE

Kestrels will be looking at how government and our electoral system works. They will also be finding out about how to keep themselves safe online and the speed at which information can be shared over the internet. They will also be finding out about the male and female reproductive systems and changes occurring during puberty.

French

Topics will include the weather, holidays and related activities, parts of the body and "Le Tour de France". They will also be singing songs and playing language games to help reinforce learning and revise previously learned language. The four language skills will be used - speaking, listening, reading and writing, along with some basic grammar awareness.

Homework/Reading at home

Children are expected to read at least three times a week at home (which should be recorded in the home-school book). Where possible, it is also beneficial for them to read with an adult, as more challenging books can be approached in this way.

Children should also be regularly practising their mental maths skills using the passport system which should be signed off by an adult when they are confident with each skill. They also have the opportunity to use mathematics and to earn certificates for participation.

In addition to this regular homework, children will be given a topic-based homework which allows greater flexibility, and the opportunity for collaboration. They will be expected to present two pieces of homework every short term.