



Kestrel Class Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2018

Teacher: Miss Ottner

Teaching assistant: Mrs Dowding

Welcome back to school. These are a few key points that I think you may need to know:

- We try hard to maintain good communication with parents through Home-School books, the school newsletter, 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 as the day of their other lesson may vary. We do ask for white t-shirts and blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms.
- 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.

Literacy

Children will begin the term with a narrative unit based on the film Mr Hublot, before looking at how to write an explanation text (which will be useful to describe their own inventions later in the term). They will also be looking at journalistic writing.

Weekly spelling lessons and tests will continue and children will study grammar throughout the term with a particular focus on punctuation.

We encourage children to read widely and they will be learning how to explore a text in greater depth through regular guided reading sessions.

Maths

The central focus of this term is on fractions, decimals and percentages. By teaching in depth with a variety of models and images, we hope that children will master key concepts. At the same time we will be working on developing fluency and accuracy in arithmetic.

A strong emphasis is placed on mental maths. All children are encouraged to practise their times tables and their maths passports at home and will have regular tests to acknowledge their progress. By this stage in the year, children should know their tables up to 12 x 12 with consistent accuracy and speed. Once secure, they will continue to improve their speed and fluency.

Science

This term's science topic is forces. Children will learn to identify and investigate the effects of different forces including gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. They will also look at mechanisms such as levers, pulleys and gears, which allow a smaller force to have a greater effect. Throughout their science work children will have an opportunity to design and carry out experiments so that they can develop their understanding of fair testing.

R.E.

Children will have a brief introduction to Sikhism before studying aspects of the Easter story in order to understand the significance of Jesus' sacrifice for Christians.

Topic

KS2's topic for Term 3 and 4 will be Inventions That Changed the World, which is a Design and Technology and History based topic. Our focus will be on innovations in transport and its development over time. The children will make some models and learn about the importance of drawing a clear design and will use this to make a moving vehicle, continually improving the design with evaluations and linking this to specific criteria.

P.E./Games

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. Our second PE session of the week will cover a range of different aspects of dance.

PSHE

In PSHE we are following the Jigsaw scheme of work which covers "Dreams and Goals" and "Healthy Me". Children will be thinking about their dreams and ideal jobs and look at the effect of smoking and alcohol on health.

French

Topics will include basic greetings and questions, numbers, the alphabet, daily routine and parts of the body. 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 will have weekly spelling tests on Tuesdays. Spellings will be given out at the start of the term. Times tables tests for those who need additional support will take place on Fridays.

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 athletics 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.

Year 6s will be given additional homework. We encourage all children to attend Year 6 club which will run on a Friday after school in Term 3 and move to Tuesdays after half term, once dance club have completed their performance. Please contact me if your child has difficulties with attending.