



Kestrel Class Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2019

Teacher: Miss Ottner

Teaching assistant: Mrs Dowding

Welcome back to school. We are very much looking forward to the new academic year in Kestrel class. These are a few key points that I think you may need to know:

- 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.
- Children are asked to bring their own pencil case in to Kestrel class. They are encouraged to take responsibility for their own belongings as part of their preparation for secondary school.
- 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
- Y6 club will be running on Tuesday after school throughout terms 3, 4 and 5. We strongly encourage all to attend (once dance club have performed). Please speak to me if your child is not able to attend these sessions.
- PE lessons will take place on Monday and Wednesday 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.
- 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

This term's focus will be on thinking about the impact of writing on the reader and the importance of careful word choice and sentence construction. We will be looking at different genres to understand the different effects on the reader.

Weekly spelling lessons and tests will continue and children will study discrete grammar throughout the term to enable them to become more fluent with the terminology.

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

A wide variety of maths topics will be covered throughout the term. The initial focus will be on decimals and percentages, followed by measurement and converting units. We will continue to work on a wide variety of arithmetic skills so that children have a secure basis to reason and explain their understanding of mathematics.

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. Once secure, they will continue to improve their speed and fluency.

Science

This term will be spent looking at materials – comparing and grouping everyday materials on the basis of their properties, looking at reversible and irreversible changes and looking at separating materials through filtering, sieving and evaporating.

R.E.

Our question in RE is "What would Jesus Do?" The children will look at Jesus' teachings, particularly the Sermon on the Mount, to help them to think about how Christians use this question to help them live a good life. This will be followed by thinking about what the resurrection means for Christians – looking at the evidence and assessing its significance.

Topic

Our new topic is Fashion, which will culminate in children designing and creating their own articles of clothing for an end of term fashion show. They will be looking at changing fashions through time as well as the skills of designing costumes for film characters. Children will be practising DT skills such as sewing and weaving to enable them to produce their own creations later in the term. During this time we will also be designing 'the same but different' socks to wear in order to celebrate World Down's Syndrome day in March.

P.E./Games

Hannah Shepherd from PH Sports will be taking the children for games on Mondays. These sessions will take place outside, when possible, so please ensure that your child has suitable kit in school this day, including trainers. Our second PE session of the week will focus on fundamental movement skills.

PSHE

In PSHE we are following the Jigsaw scheme of work which covers "Dreams and Goals" and "Healthy Me". Children will be looking at their own personal goals as well as goals and dreams for the wider world.

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 Mondays. Spellings will be given out at the start of the term. Times tables tests 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 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.

Year 6s may be given additional maths and grammar homework in order to prepare them for secondary school.