



Kestrel Class Curriculum Letter – Autumn 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
- 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

Our class novel this term will be *The Silver Sword* by Ian Serraillier and we will be working on several different genres around this book. We will also be creating non-chronological reports linked to our topic work on the Second World War. For Remembrance Day we will be looking at war poetry and creating our own.

Children will use modelled writing to develop their understanding of sentence construction as well as being given opportunities for independent writing. They will be using increasingly sophisticated techniques to help convey their meaning and will be working with a variety of genres.

Weekly spelling lessons and tests will continue and children will study grammar throughout the term focusing on identifying different word classes.

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. Children will become more secure in their understanding of number and place value, which is central to developing good calculation skills. They will then be developing both mental and formal written methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide and learning increasingly efficient methods as they become more secure with the concepts. A greater emphasis is placed on the use of decimal and large numbers as they progress.

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

Electricity will be the first topic covered with an emphasis on practical work – children will build and experiment with simple circuits to secure their understanding. They will then look at Light using investigations to understand the key concept of light travelling in a straight line and its implications.

Throughout their science work children will have an opportunity to design and carry out experiments so that they can develop their understanding of fair tests.

R.E.

Children will be exploring their understanding of Christianity this term. They will be looking at some of the controversy around the relationship between creation stories in Genesis and scientific accounts and will look at evidence for both points of view. They will then be approaching the question "Was Jesus the Messiah?" and will make links between their understanding of Jesus' role and the Christmas story.

Topic

Our topic this term is the Second World War with a focus on the Home Front in Britain. We will initially be placing it in historical context and giving a brief overview of the events before looking at how the war affected daily life in the UK. Children are often keen to research their own family backgrounds in order to make sense of this time. We will be studying the Blitz and evacuees and will focus on remembrance in November.

P.E./Games

Sessions on a Monday afternoon will be led by Hannah, from PH Sport. 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 gymnastics and dance.

PSHE

In PSHE we are following the Jigsaw scheme of work which covers "Being Me in My World" and "Celebrating Difference". Children will be looking at their own hopes and dreams and how those may differ from children in different situations to their own. They will look at how disabilities affect people's lives and think about aspects of power in bullying situations.

French

We will begin the term with revision of basic phrases and numbers, focusing on holding a basic conversation. The next topic will be School life, with children learning vocabulary relating to lessons and classroom objects.

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 working on a different times table every week.

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 mathletics and to earn certificates for participation. Times Tables Rockstars can also be used to gain fluency and proficiency in times tables.

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.