

## Frieth School



### Kestrels' Curriculum News for Parents Autumn Term 2020

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful summer holiday and are looking forward to the new term. We have had a great start to the term despite it being different to normal and the children have settled back into the routine of school! We are fortunate to have Miss Wilkins and Mrs Currie as our teaching assistants this year. This year, Kestrels will be taught by Mrs Sparks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and by Mr Honey on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Here is a look at what the children will be learning for the autumn term. Our topic this term is 'The Romans and their impact on Britain' and several areas taught will be linked to these topic themes. There will also be a focus on 'catching-up' and gap-filling those areas which need addressing, as a result of school closures. Assessment of existing knowledge when beginning to study new areas will be crucial in facilitating this.

#### English

Narrative and Non-Fiction: We will be looking at the novel "Escape from Pompeii" as a stimulus for creative writing and working on non-fiction texts such as instructions by 'making a Roman Road' and 'becoming a Gladiator Champion'.

Poetry: Using a variety of poetry resources the children will learn how to read poems with expressive voices, turn lines of poetry into prose, analyse poems, learn a chant by heart and add actions to poetry among other things.

Through our English lessons we will also cover the year 3 and 4 curriculum for SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). This will be covered at times in the English lesson and sometimes as a standalone lesson. We will also focus on handwriting and presentation skills. Spellings will be taught in class and some activities will be sent home connected with the patterns or words taught as well as spellings to learn. Please help your child to learn the *spellings for that week*. At the start of term the children will also be given a *book mark* which they are to have in school every day. By the end of the term they are expected to be able to spell all of the words on this bookmark. This means that they need to work on the words that they do not know at home each week. You will be given a sheet identifying the words that they could not spell at the beginning of the term. These will be tested at various points through the term to check progress.

Each week the children will enjoy a session of Guided Reading with the teacher. The session includes the reading discussion and comprehension of texts levelled to their reading ability. Reading books will continue to go home. Please ensure that your child's reading record (if they are not a free reader) and reading book is brought in to school **every day**. The children will have the opportunity to change their books every day during the guided reading session and will be expected to do this independently. At home, children should be reading independently or to an adult every night.

## Maths

The dislocation to learning during the summer term means that our priority in maths (and indeed other core subjects) is to identify gaps that may have developed. To assist us in our planning and teaching for the current situation we have access to the recently published DfE Recovery Advice Document for each year group and following the excellent White Rose schemes that have proved so useful. We will begin this term we are revising our understanding of place value, the four number operations, fractions and geometry. We will be using a range of resources to do this, including White Rose, Power Maths and Classroom Secrets. These resources are excellent in developing the fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills necessary. Please encourage your children to talk about the maths in the world around them. For example..if I have £3 pocket money each week how many weeks will it take me to save up for a game costing £32? Instinctive knowledge and recall of tables facts are a key building block in maths and these will also feature prominently and should also be an important part of home learning. TT Rockstars is a great way to support this.

## Science

Over the course of this term, we will be looking at 'Sound' and 'States of Matter' as our science units. In our unit on sound, as well as developing our understanding of what 'sound' is and how it travels, we will be investigating how the pitch of a sound can be changed and exploring the vibrations associated with sound.

For the unit on 'States of Matter', we will be exploring the water cycle and recognising the difference between solids, liquids and gasses.

In all science lessons we aim to enliven the learning with practical investigations. To support this, we will initially complete a range of different short investigations, unrelated to our topics, so as to remind pupils of the skills necessary to work scientifically.

## Computing

This term will start with input on internet safety, following the advice and lesson plans provided by CEOP. We feel that this has a very particular resonance at the moment. Once completed, we will move onto further work looking into data and digital media, always looking for ways of applying these skills to other parts of their learning.

## P.E

The children will be taught PE by Mrs Sparks on a Tuesday afternoon and lessons will be planned to involve non-contact activities. PE will be taught with Club Sport on a Wednesday. ***As it is now nearing autumn and the weather will be getting colder all children need tracksuit bottoms in P.E. bags. Please ensure that PE kit is in school every day as there may be a need for it on days other than Tuesday and Wednesdays.***

## Design Technology

This term Kestrels will be working on mechanical systems with a particular focus on levers and linkages in books and this will be linked to our topic on Romans.

## RE

Our focus religion for this year is Christianity. For this term, we will be looking at saints and considering their importance as role models. We will then reflect on the Christmas Story as we approach the term's end.

### **Topic (History and Geography)**

Over the coming weeks the children will be looking at the impact the Romans had on Britain. This will include looking at the formation of roads, the building of baths, Hadrian's Wall, roman numerals and mosaics.

### **PSHE**

For this term our theme is 'Relationships.' As part of this the class will explore the different types of relationships that we have. Year 3 will consider what makes a family, and the features of family life, safe relationships and the impact of hurtful behaviour and recognising respectful behaviours. Year 4 will look at positive friendships (including on line), responding to hurtful behaviour and recognising similarities and differences sensitively.

### **Music**

This term will be focussing on composition and linking this work to soundscapes and using the excellent on line Charanga resources to support this.

### **Art**

Printing The Year 3's will learn how to use a roller and create mono and relief prints. The Year 4's will use mono printing and create press print relief blocks and collographs.

Textile The Year 3's will collect visual information and experiment with dip dye, collograph and plasticine relief blocks to make repeating patterns with fabric. The Year 4's will combine a variety of dip dye, monoprinting, knotting and wrapping techniques to create work in response to Michael Brennan Wood.

### **French**

The children in Y4 will have plenty of recapping following the long summer break and Y3 will be introduced to French using a variety of resources.

We are looking forward to this coming year. Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any concerns or worries please send a note in with your child so that we can get in touch.

**Mrs. Sparks and Mr. Honey**

**Additional Points continued overleaf**

### Additional Points

Children are expected to spend at least 20 minutes on a piece of homework. In the current circumstances this does not need to be returned to school as we will be making best use of on line resources. Homework is set for a number of reasons; it might be to consolidate work that has been done in class, it might be to challenge or it might be just for fun! Below is our planned homework timetable but it may vary dependent on the curriculum needs that week.

### Homework expectations – Kestrels

	Year 3	Year 4
Daily reading	✓	✓
Daily spellings practice based on spelling lists sent home every Monday and then tested the following Monday. (Mrs Sparks)	✓	✓
Daily mental arithmetic practice using TT Rockstars to support knowledge of tables. (Mr Honey)	✓	✓
English activity (additional to spelling) – sent home on Mondays. This could be online and if set on paper it does not need to be returned. (Mrs Sparks)	Fortnightly (25mins)	Weekly (25-30 mins)
Maths – Set on Friday and will always be online using one of our learning platforms	Weekly (25 mins)	Weekly (25-30 mins)

- Children should be prepared for the day with the equipment they need. Reading books and records must be in school every day. The children do not need to bring in any pencil cases.
- Children are expected to have their PE kit in school every day. This should include tracksuit and outdoor trainers.
- Any water bottle brought into school should be named.
- Remember to keep an eye on our school website as we update our class page regularly.