**Frieth School**



**Kestrels’ Curriculum News for Parents**

**Autumn Term 2017**

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are looking forward to the new term. We have had a great start to the term and the children have settled into the routine of school! We are fortunate to have Ms Grundy as our teaching assistant this year. Here is a look at what the children will be learning for the autumn term. Our topics this term are “Underground” (first half) and Eco Warriors (second half), several areas taught will be linked to these topic themes.

**English**

Narrative: We will looking at aspects of The Hobbit and the novel Fantastic Mr Fox as a stimulus for creative writing and working on non-fiction texts such as posters, reports and instructions.

Poetry: Using a variety of poetry resources, including humorous ones, the children will learn how to recognise and use of correct grammatical terminology.

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.

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 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.

# **Maths**

Planning is based on the curriculum and follows a well-established scheme of work which incorporates prior learning, ensuring breadth of knowledge and extending and challenging all children. By the end of Year 3 we will have covered all of the time tables and we would like the children to know, by heart, the multiplication facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables. It is really important the children practise these at home **every day.** By the end of Year 4, the children are expected to know all of their tables in and out of context up to 12 x 12 tables (for example what is 4 lots of 8, what is the product of 6 and 7?). Cracking Times tables test take place every *Wednesday.* They will work at their own level and when they complete the test within 3 minutes with close to 100% accuracy they will receive a certificate and move onto the next level. Please help your child with their times tables whenever possible.

**Science**

The children will study the ‘States of Matter’ and learn about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. They will have chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate and explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation. Finally, they will learn about the stages of the water cycle. After Half Term the children will learn about the different types of rocks and how they are formed. They will compare and group rocks based on appearance and simple properties and learn how fossils are formed. Children will understand how soil is formed and then investigate the permeability of different types of soil.

**Computing**

The first part of the term will be spent continuing lessons based on CEOP (Child Exploitation and On-line protection.) Parents can also access the site ([www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk) and look for the section for Parents, Carers and Guardians and click on ‘Thinkyouknow’) to support the important issues that will be raised.

We will then move onto: Programming and we will be using the Scratch and Espresso Coding software to develop their skills in this area of the computing curriculum.

**P.E**

The Yr 3 children will be taught different games by Mrs Tyzack on a Tuesday afternoon when the Year 4 children will be swimming. Gymnastics and Dance will be taught with Club Sport on a Wednesday in the first half of the term and then will continue to develop these skills in the second half of the term. ***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 textiles linked with our topic of ‘Underground.’

**RE**

During this term we will be looking atIslam in the first half of the term, learning about the key aspects of this faith including its key festivals. The children will also learn about symbols in Islam, the Muslim holy book and the main beliefs held by Muslims. In the second half of the term they will teach the children about the key parts of the Nativity story. They will find out how the Nativity story began, the journey undertaken (relating it to the children's own understanding of journeys and distance), where Jesus was born and why, the visitors who came after the birth and how baby Jesus' life was at risk. The unit will conclude with the children thinking through the different parts of the Nativity story to decide what they feel is the most significant part of the story for Christians today.

**Creative**

*In history* we will be looking at *how unpleasant were the bronze and iron ages*? The children will explore the key features of the Bronze and Iron Ages, and come to conclusions about how difficult life was. They look at the developments that were made during the periods and discuss together which made the biggest impact of the standard of living. *In geography* we will be asking *are we damaging our world*? The children will consider if we are damaging our world and how we can protect it. The children will investigate energy production, the oceans and minerals, as well as conducting an enquiry into how the school can become more sustainable.

**PSHE**

The children will continue to develop their growth mindset and look at the following themes of trust and mutual respect.

**Music**

We will be using new resources to support our music learning and this term’s unit is based on songs in different styles about being happy. We will start by listening to Pharrell Williams’ Happy. In the second half of the term they will be preparing the class contribution for our Christmas Whole School performance.

**Art**

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 Brennand Wood.

Drawing *Yr3* The children will learn how to use different pencil marks and shading that will lead towards drawings of wheels *Yr4* The children will use a viewfinder to select and analyse shoes. They will develop their fine pencil control and produce thick and thin lines and a variety of tonal qualities.

Painting Yr3 Will be mixing colour tints using primary and secondary colours. They will respond to the work of Van Gogh and Sean Scully and experiment with the techniques of 'tonking' and 'sgraffito'. Yr4 will paint on different surfaces and experiment with the application of colours. They will respond to the work of Georgia O'Keefe and techniques used by JMW Turner.

**French**

The children will have plenty of recapping following the long summer break. The main focus thereafter will be knowing and using numbers 13-39, including looking at spelling patterns. They will then attempt to count in multiples of 10 from 0-100.

We are looking forward to this coming year. Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any concerns or worries please feel free to make an appointment to meet with either of us.

**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. Please write comments to the teacher in their homework books noting the help that you needed to give them or any observations. 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**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 to support Cracking Times Tables which will be tested every Wednesday.(Mr Honey)** | ✓ | ✓ |
| **English activity (additional to spelling) – sent home on Mondays and returned the following Monday (Mrs Sparks)** | Fortnightly (25mins) | Weekly (25-30 mins) |
| **Maths – Sent home every Friday to *be handed in by the following Thursday.(Mr Honey)99*** | Weekly (25 mins) | Weekly (25-30 mins) |
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* 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.
* Children can bring things in to school if it is related to the work that we are doing.
* Remember to keep an eye on our school website as we update our class page regularly.