

# Kestrels



## Curriculum Information Spring Term 2020

*Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term! I hope you all had a relaxing festive break. Firstly, I would like to thank you for all the lovely cards and presents which I and the LSA's received at the end of last term, they were very much appreciated and are already being put to good use. A huge thank you for all your generosity from Kestrels staff*

Our key stage 2 topic this term will be 'The Amazon'. It has many opportunities for cross curricular links and should be a fantastic topic to study. Below is a brief summary of what the children will be learning about in each subject area this term.

### English

During this term the children will be continuing to learn about a range of genres including poetry, discussion or balanced arguments, non-chronological reports and narrative.

Every week the children will enjoy a Guided Reading session with their class teacher. The session includes reading, discussion, vocabulary and comprehension of books or texts, levelled to the children's reading ability. The main class book this term is Jungle book connected with the theme of Rainforests/Amazon.

Alongside this we will also teach SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) In Year 4, we will be especially looking at; determiners, plural and possessive s, inverted commas, paragraphs and modifying prepositions. In Year 3 we will consider; indefinite articles, reviewing verbs, writing about the past, tense spotting, verbs in writing, clauses and linking clauses. Children will also have a discrete spelling lesson each week to focus on patterns and explore new vocabulary.

Books from the library will continue to be taken home and children can change these any lunchtime. The children should be reading independently or to an adult every night. The children still on the reading scheme will have the opportunity to change their reading books every day as needed. We would like to see every child reading more this term and at least equivalent to 10 minutes every night.

### Mathematics

We start the term off by continuing the work on multiplication and division for both year 3 and year 4. We started to work on this towards the end of last term. We will also be doing daily multiplication practice to ensure we are all confident with the times tables.

Year 4 will then go on to look at measure learning about area, fractions and finally decimals.

Year 3 will cover the areas of money, statistics, length and fractions.

As ever we look to thoroughly practise a skill before looking to apply and reason with it. Please help the children to instinctively see the maths that surrounds them in the world by sharing maths in your everyday lives such as shopping bills, telling the time and sharing things out.

You may be aware that the school has now confirmed its trial subscription of TT Rockstars. This has proved very popular with the children. Sheets relating to Rockstars, will now replace the cracking times table sheets in class. Children can practice using the online games at home. We are looking at improvements in both the speed and accuracy of their tables recall.

## Science

Science this term will link to the rainforest topic looking at living things in their habitats and observe life cycle changes of a variety of living things (plants animals in the local environment. They will consider how animals and plants in different habitats are suited to their environment (eg different plants grow in different places). We will also be looking at evolution to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. Much of our learning will be through investigations allowing the children to work scientifically and ask questions.

## R.E.

This term, the class will ask, 'Does the community of the Gurdwara help Sikhs to lead better lives?' Nearer to Easter they will then discuss whether the resurrection was important to Christians?

## PSHE

This term we are focussing on relationships. We will look at feelings and emotions such as confidentiality, secrets, surprises, personal safety, empathy and recognising others emotions. As part of work on healthy relationships, they will look at privacy, sharing, personal boundaries, disputes, conflict, negotiation and compromise. A third area covered will be valuing difference; listening, viewpoints, opinions, respect, bullying, discrimination, and aggressive behaviour

## Creative Curriculum (History and Geography)

The Amazon Rainforest is our theme for this term. Children will use atlases to locate where rainforests are found in relation to the UK. They will investigate landforms and how they have changed over time. We will also study different climates, biomes and vegetation. As part of the historical studies we will be looking at Mayan Civilisations. Children will investigate and compare the settlement, place the period on a time line and explore clothes, cultures and their writing.

## Computing

The term will start with learning about internet safety. Then we will be investigating data, through the use of spreadsheets and databases. We will consider how both can help inform the drawing of conclusions. In the second half of term we will move on to looking at digital media and how films can be captured and edited using software. Throughout we'll be ensuring that this subject links purposefully to other curriculum areas and that the children's use of technology supports learning across all subjects and activities and does not exist in isolation.

## Art and Design Technology

This term we will look at textiles and printing techniques. The children will explore different prints and methods to produce colours for printing. They will then explore textiles, looking at weaving and collage representations. In DT we will be looking at mechanisms, learning which will definitely include some practical activity.

## Music

This term we will be looking at performance and instrumental composition. We will learn how to play the recorder and basic notation of musical scores. Children will get the opportunity to link work on the rainforest and create their own musical performance.

## French

In French we will be investigating some of the traditions surrounding Epiphany in France. We will then turn our attention to the language of shopping.

## P.E.

Please could you ensure that the children have their P.E. clothes in school on a **Thursday (outdoor PE)** and **Friday**. They would benefit from having tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE as the weather can be very cold during the spring term. The children will need shorts and T shirt for indoor sessions. Friday will be focussed on dance (based on the rainforest) and gymnastics. Club sport will take the session on Thursday - In the first half of the term the children will do football skills followed by dodgeball. After half term they will work on Rugby skills.

## Homework

Homework will be set on a Monday and is due in the following Monday.

Spellings are given out on Monday morning during the lesson and will be tested on the following Monday.

Maths homework will be set using on-line resources such as Education City, Purple Mash or Mathletics and in addition the children are expected to practise their times tables (possibly using TT Rockstars) each week.

Children should read at home every day as part of their homework, preferably to an adult if possible who could check their understanding of vocabulary and comprehension.

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

	Year 3	Year 4
Daily reading	✓	✓
Daily spellings practice based on spelling lists sent home every Monday and then tested the following Monday.	✓	✓
Daily mental arithmetic practice to support Cracking Times Tables which will be tested every Friday	✓	✓
English activity (additional to spelling) – sent home every other Monday and returned the following Monday	Fortnightly (20mins)	Weekly (25 mins)
Maths – Sent home every other Monday to be handed in by the following Monday.	Fortnightly (20 mins)	Weekly (25 mins)

### Additional Points

- 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.

As always, if you have any concerns or worries please feel free to make an appointment or come and talk to me.  
Many thanks for your continued support.

*Miss Green.*