



Kestrel Class
Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to you all as we begin another busy term in school after Easter!



Literacy

This term the Kestrels will initially be looking at the author Francesca Simon and her Horrid Henry books. We will be identifying recurring themes, examining plot and character development, and eventually making our own Horrid Henry book to share with the class in our library. We will also be writing explanations, reports and producing flow charts to explain processes from our science topic, for example, the life cycles of frogs and butterflies. We will be reading extended stories from significant authors such as Roald Dahl, and having a go at publishing our own. We will be finishing the term with some silly poems such as riddles, jokes and nonsense poems and writing our own! Weekly reading books, spellings and activities when appropriate, will continue to be sent home on a Thursday. Please could book bags be returned by the following Tuesday whenever possible. Thank you!



Maths

In Maths children will continue developing and securing their knowledge of addition and subtraction calculations and problem solving in the context of time, weight, capacity and length. This term the children will develop their understanding of multiplication as repeated addition, and division as sharing, through practical activities and written calculations. They will also be focusing on data handling and interpreting graphs and tables and researching their own questions. Mathematics activities and mental maths will be sent home as appropriate.



Science

In Science the Kestrels will be working on two units of work this term. They will begin by looking at Plants and Animals in their local environment, often linked to our Literacy work on report writing and explanation texts. This will involve nature walks around the school grounds, studying where animals and plants like to live, and growing our own plants! We will hopefully get the opportunity to observe tadpoles developing into frogs for ourselves - please let me know if you could spare a few tadpoles for a few weeks!

After half term we will be looking at Forces, building our own cars and carrying out experiments to investigate the effect of pushes and pulls on different objects, considering how to make out test fair.



Topic Work

Our class topic this half term will be Day and Night. This is a unit from the International Primary Curriculum, which we are trialling throughout the school. This will feed into our Science work as we investigate the effect light and dark conditions have on the growth of plants, and literacy as we learn about nocturnal animals. We will also create night-time scenes in our art work and listen to and make music that evokes a feeling of lightness or darkness. Our class roleplay area will be transformed into a cave full of nocturnal animals and stars to support this work and to allow imaginative play and investigations using torches and prisms. After half term we will learning about holidays around the world and our class roleplay will become an airport and travel agents.

In ICT Kestrels will continue to have the opportunity to use a laptop computer in class each week to develop their word processing skills, publish their work, and to research our topics.

In RE we will be learning about the Jewish Faith and the importance of Shabbat as a holy day for Jewish people. During the second half of the term we will be finding out more about the stories of Moses and Joseph, and why these stories are special.

During PE sessions Kestrels will be learning some more team games outside as the weather hopefully improves, such as tennis, cricket, football and rounders. Kestrels will also start their swimming lessons at Neston Recreation Centre on a Thursday morning from 22nd April, so please ensure they bring their swimming kits into school on a Thursday. PE will also take place in the hall or outside on a Monday afternoon, so please ensure that children have their PE kit in school at all times, including pumps or trainers that fit them!

S.A.T.s

The Key Stage 1 Standardised Assessment Tests will take place this term mainly during May (if you have any holidays booked around this time please let me know as soon as possible). These tests form part of the teacher assessment which is ongoing throughout the key stage, and at the end of term you will receive a copy of your child's assessment levels in English (reading and writing), Mathematics and Science. We do not put any added pressure on the children at this time, but would ask you to support them with a regular sleep pattern (including Sunday nights) so that they can cope with what is a formal test situation.

We are also very excited about our class trip to Chester Zoo on Thursday July 15th as a celebration of all the work we have done about different animals this year.

I hope that this information is useful to you in supporting your child's education. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me at any time. Finally, thank you for all of your support during the year and I hope the children will enjoy their summer term in Kestrel class.

Mrs Katherine Slinger