



Heron Class - Curriculum Letter for Parents – Terms 3 and 4

Dear Parents of Heron Class,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas holiday and that you all managed to spend time with your family.

We are very excited to get started with our learning this term. The curriculum map attached gives an overview of some of the work we will be covering through these terms. Please also see below some extra key information about the day-to-day running of the class.

Heron class will have a class Assembly on Thursday 5th February 2026 at 9:10 am. This will be linked to our school value, this term, Courage. We hope you can make it!

PE

PE this term will now be on Mondays and Fridays, unless we have sports coaches, in which case PE will be on Wednesday instead of Friday. Sports coach will be on 4.2.26, 25.2.26, 11.3.26 and 25.3.26. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school for all days mentioned. For health and safety reasons no jewellery should be worn on PE days. PE kit consists of plain dark coloured shorts/tracksuit bottoms/skorts/leggings, trainers, school PE tops and school jumpers. If your child has earrings, they will need a supply of plasters or micropore tape in school that they can apply to cover them – or leave them out on PE days. Long hair should also be tied back please.

Spellings

Spellings will come home on a Tuesday for dictation on the following Monday. Children need to know the set of words we are learning, what the words mean and how to spell them. We will be focusing on a specific root morpheme each week and looking at how this can be adapted using prefixes and suffixes. It is also crucial that the children feel confident with the spelling of the high frequency words in order for them to be on track to learn the trickier Year 3 and 4 words. A copy of these can be found on the class webpage. To reach a level that is expected for a Year 4 children in writing, they have to be able to spell most of these words correctly.

Homework

At this age, we believe homework should be about meeting deadlines and taking responsibility for their own learning. We will be setting one piece of homework per week that should take no longer than 20-30 minutes. Homework will be set on a Tuesday and needs to be in by the following Monday. If the homework is too difficult for your child,

please don't hesitate to let us know. Other activities can be set or we can look at how we can support them to access the learning task at home.

Reading

Children at this age should still be reading to a parent frequently and should also be read to at home. The more mature skills in reading, such as intonation and characterisation, develop more quickly the more 'out-loud' reading is done. It also supports their fluency and means we can check that they are understanding what they are reading. We will have a reading book kept in school set at their correct reading level and we try to hear the children reading this book as often as is possible. At home, please encourage the children to read for pleasure.

Times Tables

Times tables tests will take place on Fridays so please support the children by practising at home. Each of the children will be set an individual set of times tables to learn each week based on their individual needs.

By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. Much of the maths we do (and even more in Year 5) depends on children knowing these and seeing patterns in numbers that come from times tables knowledge. There is also a nationwide multiplication check in the summer of Year 4 (more information here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multiplication-tables-check>). We will help the children to prepare for this and give them more information about it closer to the time. All of the times tables practice that they do now will set them up well for the test in summer.

We find that once the children have learnt their times tables securely, with continued practise and applying them a lot during our learning, they only have to spend a little time reminding themselves of their times tables. Please support us by encouraging the children to practise every day. There are some great websites to help (times tables rock stars/maths frame/hit the button), lots of games to play (bingo/using dice) and good old-fashioned chanting works too! If we feel your child is making slow progress on a particular times table, we will let you know.

Snacks/Water Bottles

Can we please remind you that we are a nut free school. Children can have a healthy snack to eat at break time. Please also ensure that children come to school every day with a water bottle and take them home to be washed.

Footwear

Due to the weather, children can have a change of footwear (trainers) in school for use at break times, lunch times and outdoor PE sessions.

Contact

I am always available for a chat at pick up time, and if you wish to have a more detailed conversation then I am always happy to arrange an appointment through the school office for before or after the school day. Class Dojo is also a great way of contacting me and passing on messages. We also use Dojo as a reward system in class and the class wins a treat when they reach a certain number of points. Although Class Dojo is a great way to send messages, if your message is urgent, please pass this through the school office as I may be unable to check Dojo during the school day.

Finally, we just wanted to say a huge thank you to Heron Class as they worked so hard in the autumn term and to our lovely parents for all your continued support.

Many thanks,

Kelly McConnell and Mrs Pearce