**Frieth School**

**Kestrels’ Curriculum News for Parents**

We hope you all had a joyous Christmas and New Year break. Thank you for all our gifts. They were very much appreciated by all of us.

Our whole school topic is **Island Hopping** and we always appreciate any artefacts brought in that can support our topics. We started our topic with two fabulous days giving the topic the ‘WOW factor. Please see the website for photos and more information. Whilst talking about the website, we do update our class page regularly so take a look under the pupils tab and class pages drop down menu.

Here is what the children will be learning for the Spring Term. We have underlined the topics in each subject.

English

The children will be reading a range of different texts connected with our topic, Island hopping. We are going to spend some time looking at Stories from other cultures. Immersing ourselves in some wonderful stories from the great and diverse continent of Africa; we will read Africa is not a Country, Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughtersand The Pot of Wisdom – Ananse stories.The children will write an Ananse story using extended sentences.

By reading The Wolves in the Walls (Dave McKean and Neil Gaiman), Wolves (Emily Gravett), and Top Gun of the Sky (Martin Bradley), the children will investigate non-chronological reports. They will discover exciting facts about British wildlife, look at the key-features of this style of writing, and produce their own interesting reports in order to effectively share information.

Inspired by Julia Donaldson's Poems to Perform, the children will watch, perform, read and write a range of performance poetry. The children will tell tales, using possessive apostrophes and explore the uses of pronouns, editing poetry & writing profiles about themselves as performer poets. They will share their learning with a wider audience!

We are continuing to work on developing a cursive handwriting script and ensuring that letters have clear lead ins and lead outs.

Alongside this we will also teach SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) taught both as discrete lessons as well as having the ongoing expectations that the children constantly improve upon their writing using the skills they have been taught. Examples of this are present tense of verbs; Extending range of sentences with more than one clause and using a wide range of conjunctions, including those expressing time, place and cause; Use grammatical categories: Noun, adjective, verb, adverb and preposition; Use prepositions to express time or place.

We would love to see high quality homework that also incorporates our handwriting style and SPaG skills

Every week the children will read with the teacher in Guided Reading sessions. They are expected to read at least 3 times a week at home with an adult, who should record/sign their reading record.

# Maths Year 3

Planning is based on the new curriculum and follows a well-established scheme of work. We will be looking at using three and four digit numbers; using different formal methods of addition and subtraction with these numbers where appropriate; use of estimation to aid more complicated calculations; continuing with cracking timetables and challenging the children to work beyond 2, 4, 5, and 10 x tables into their 6’s and 7’s and for some up to the 12 x 12 level **(as always please continue to support this at home)**; using the inverse of multiplication as division; converting measurements such as mm to cm and cm to m and g to kg; use of data to create graphs; interpretation of data; starting to understand and compare basic fractions; continuing with the use of analogue and digit clocks and calculating time intervals. We will encourage the children to explain how they solved a problem and various measures such as money, mass and volume will be used within word problems. **Please encourage the children to use time and money whenever possible at home.**

# Maths Year 4

Numeracy will concentrate on number work and fractions: We will look at problem solving (involving numbers, money, time, shape etc), partitioning 4 digit numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens and units, multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and 100, calculator use, rounding up and down, recall multiplication facts up to 12 x 12 and the corresponding division facts, decimals, percentages and fractions (converting to simple fractions, equivalent fractions and mixed fractions). Just a reminder to keep practicing these times tables at home – both the multiplication and the inverse: division. We will also be accurately measuring and problem solving using weight and time, using decimal notation to record weight, understanding and using coordinates, and developing mental addition and subtraction for solving problems.

Science:

Living things and their habitats

The children will learn about what makes something living (MRS NERG: respiration, nutrition, growth etc) and the various ways of identifying living things. We will sort animals into species, study food chains and look at branch databases. The children will look at the different habitats animals need in order to survive and how evolution has changed the ways animals exist in certain habitats. The Year 4 children will also look at what caused extinction in various species and how our current environment puts some species in danger of extinction.

Electricity: In the second half of the term we will be looking at electricity and having fun making and writing circuits. We will look at the use of symbols when planning and writing circuits and recognizing where circuits won’t work. Additionally we will look at insulators and conductors and create an enquiry to see which materials/metals are insulators and conductors. We will discuss Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison & Michael Faraday’s contribution to our understanding of electricity.

Computing

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| Data: Research information and enter data into a database. Use it to ask and answer straightforward questions and produce bar charts.Digital Media Use digital cameras and camcorders independently, considering purpose and quality of footage; review, edit and sequence, Compose music for a specific purpose.E- Safety Understand that the Internet contains fact, fiction and opinions and begin to distinguish between them.  |
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P.E

Games Hockey - The children will learn to use a hockey stick correctly and with safety. They will learn to dribble the ball in different directions and how to manipulate the ball to do this. They will be encouraged to understand the importance of communication and how they can make their team mates aware they are free.

Gymnastics The children will be working on forming a variety of rolls, jumps and balances. They will perform a sequence with change of level and speed and be encouraged to give a clear description of how to improve quality of another’s performance. We will be using a variety of apparatus and will encourage the children to gain in confidence when using the high apparatus and wall bars. The children will look at video clips of Olympic and Paralympic athletes competing in gymnastic competitions to give them aspirational ideas.

Please could you ensure that the children have their P.E. clothes in school on a **Monday** and a **Thursday**. 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 Tshirt for indoor PE

Art:

Printing The Year 3's will learn how to use a roller and create mono and relief prints. The Year 4's will build on their experience of mono printing from last year 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 Brennand Wood.

Design and Technology

This term the children will be looking at designing and making electrical systems.

Music

The children will be creating, performing and analyzing expressive compositions and extending their sound vocabulary. In addition we will look at pulse and rhythm within music as well as ability and confidence to perform with others.

French

We are going to be finding out about how some people in France celebrate Epiphany as well as the tradition of setting resolutions.

*Throughout Key Stage2 we will be looking at the following areas:*

The work will be differentiated by the tasks that we set. At all times the children will be supported and challenged.

Creative

History: The children will find out about ***what happened when the Romans came*** to this island. They will learn about the lives, challenges and achievements of the Romans in Britain. They will learn how to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective.

Geography: ***Do you like to be beside the seaside?*** The children will learn about the coast of the British Isles. Children will consider some of the advantages and disadvantages of living by the coast. Throughout the unit they will also be introduced to some contrasting coasts around the world, extending their coastal and locational knowledge.

R.E.

This term, the class will find out about the importance and significance of sacred texts to believers. Children will use a variety of sources: written, visual and real people. They will use material taken directly from the sacred text and study its meaning and effect on the lives of believers. Children will discover the messages within sacred texts, and develop their understanding of this type of material and its effect on people’s lives. They will have opportunities to think about the significance of important words in their own lives, which could provide opportunities for spiritual and moral development.

P.S.H.E

I hope – I’m special The children will think about setting simple goals, planning for the future. They will demonstrate how to look after money and save money.

I feel - I’m special The children will identify different types of relationships. They will make choices about how to develop healthy life styles.

Homework will go home on Monday (English/SPaG and Creative Curriculum research homework) and Friday (Maths) on alternate weeks. The children are expected to practice for both their Cracking timetables tests (Friday) and their spelling tests (Monday). It is *vital* that reading books are brought back to school each day. Please encourage your child to put their homework books into their school bag as soon as they have completed their homework. Also please remember to comment on work; identifying if any support was given, challenges encountered, independence etc.

Please ensure the correct PE kit is in school every day.

Please do come and see us in the first instance should you have any concerns or points to raise.

Mrs Robinson and Mrs Sparks