



Eagle Owls Spring Term Update

Teacher: Miss C. Middlebrook
Support Assistants: Mrs J. Bourke (Maths), Mrs K. Merry (English)

I hope that you have enjoyed the Easter holiday and are ready for a great Summer term in Eagle Owls! This is an important term for Year 6 pupils for many reasons, but also one that they should enjoy.

Topic

Our topic for this half term is 'The Royal Wedding', in preparation for the event itself on Saturday 19th May! We will be discussing the concept of marriage and the children's understanding of a wedding, writing and making our own wedding invitations, writing formal replies to a wedding invitation from H.R.H Prince Harry himself, researching the royal family tree and researching/comparing royal weddings through time.

We will also be researching and designing wedding flowers/bouquets and having a go at our own floral art, as well as wedding outfits, cakes and menus. The children will also sketch their own portraits of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. The topic will finish with a Royal wedding street party on Friday 18th May, as a pre-wedding and post-SATs celebration!

Talk for Writing – We will be focusing on writing our own discussion texts to present a balanced argument on different topics. Within this, there will also be the opportunity for full class debating. There will also be many writing activities linked to our topic 'The Royal Wedding', such as writing a formal reply to an invitation, journalistic articles on the forthcoming royal wedding or recent birth of the new royal baby and biographies of Prince Harry or Meghan Markle. As we move towards the end of the year, it is important that the children independently proof-read and edit the quality, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation of every piece of their writing carefully in accordance with Y5/6 expectations and present neatly in their best handwriting in order to achieve their potential.

Grammar, Spelling and Handwriting

There will be an emphasis on excellent presentation and handwriting in **all** work. Grammar sessions will continue to be integrated into daily English lessons, as well as regular exercises and SATs-style questions/ten-minute tests and continued SPAG paper practise. Whole school Spelling will continue to be taught as two weekly lessons using a variety of approaches and strategies to teach and learn the spellings, as well as different ways to apply them. The children will continue to be given a list of 20 words from the Y5/6 statutory spelling list every week to focus on and practise, which will then be assessed in the same format as the SATs spelling test, as well as through other games/activities. Please could you continue to practise weekly spellings, as well as a variety from the Y5/6 spelling list to consolidate work in class.

Guided Reading

The 'Fiction Express' website will continue to be used for weekly Guided Reading; reading a new chapter and voting on the outcome. We will also continue to do shorter daily Guided Reading sessions in which children will work on exam-style questions and explore shorter texts, or revisit practise papers. The children should continue to develop their use of Point, Evidence, Explanation to structure their longer answers and practise with any materials that are sent home. All Year 6 children have also been issued with a reading bookmark on Tuesday 24th April, which displays all of the types of comprehension questions they are asked on them with the matching 'dog' e.g. Iggy Inference, Rex Retrieval, which parents can use to ask questions from when listening to your child read.

Accelerated Reader

Children will complete the Star Reading assessment to assess which colour band of reading books they can borrow from the library to take AR quizzes on. At this particular age, the children should be reading regularly and widely, as this will not only aid their comprehension skills, but also their writing, grammar and spelling. Attached to this letter are lists of recommended reads for Year 5s and 6s, some of which are taken from the Pie Corbett Literature spine. Please can children complete a 'Recommended read' for each of the books that they read; whether it be fiction or non-fiction. AR quizzes should be taken during afternoon registration. **It is extremely important that the children read a range of texts regularly in order to aid their comprehension and writing.**

Maths – We will be finishing off some of the last Maths No Problem topics, such as area and perimeter, doing revision on topics previously covered in the year and going through reasoning questions/practise papers in preparation for the forthcoming SATs exams. Please can you continue to help your child to go through any papers that may be sent home for additional practise or revision booklets/quizzes. I will also be continuing to run the weekly Maths Club with children to revise areas that they may be struggling with and practise application within a smaller group. Any practise that you can do with your child at home, along with application to written problems, will continue to help them further and ensure that they can achieve their potential. Your ongoing support in this is much appreciated.

Science – We will finish our topic on Animals and Humans by creating television commercials promoting a healthy lifestyle and diet, before moving onto Evolution and Inheritance, which will involve learning about genetics, natural selection, selective breeding and the theory of evolution. We also hope to have some animal visitors linked to this!

PE – PE coaching will continue to take place on Wednesday afternoons by Coach Cinar. There will also continue to be competition preparation sessions on Wednesday afternoons for those children who are selected to compete. Gymnastics will take place again on Thursday afternoons. Well done to the children for their excellent representation of the school in a variety of sporting competitions and tournaments this year!

Routines

Please can children ensure that they take responsibility for looking after their own and school equipment – particularly in preparation for Secondary school! This term is an important turning point for them and it is important that they have the life skills and academic skills that they need to achieve whatever they want in High school and later life! There will be a lot of work and visits to ease the transition to Secondary education in the next half term and I look forward to helping the children towards this.

On a morning, children are expected to be in the classroom **immediately**, as it is important that we have this time to practise specific Maths/Literacy skills or finish work. The only children who are required to do school jobs on a morning are Year 5 Milk Monitors, Year 5 Library Monitors and Register Monitors. Reading books and AR quizzes can be done every day during afternoon registration.

Tuesday: Spelling Session 1. Y6 Maths Club 3-4.15pm.

Wednesday: PE and Sports competitions coaching (PM).

Thursday: Gymnastics coaching (PM).

Friday: Spelling Lesson 2 & Young Leaders

Daily: Guided Reading & alternated SPAG/Mental Arithmetic sessions.

Homework

It is very important that children continue to practise **reading, spellings, times tables/division facts and written methods** on a weekly basis at home. Many thanks for helping your child to complete practise papers that have been sent home last term and the Easter revision packs. A Maths revision booklet has been sent home last week, which your child should work through and bring into school daily to work on in any spare time in the day as well. Your help in supporting the children with such activities at home continues to be very much appreciated. Other homework tasks are optional and are mainly related to the Topic – please can children have completed one of these by the end of the half term (Tuesday 22nd May). I have tried to ensure that these are more research and practically-orientated! Homework can be completed in the children's new Homework Books. Homework will be looked at and may be displayed, but may not necessarily be marked.

SATs

Year 6 children will be taking their SATs tests in the week beginning 14th May 2018. We will continue to give the children regular exercises, activities, questions and tests to help to give them exam technique to achieve their potential. Thank you for your partnership in helping to prepare and support the children for their SATs so far, it is much appreciated. I am confident that the children will try their best and that we will enjoy our Royal wedding party and Y5/6 residential afterwards!

**We look forward to working with you in this final term!
Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you require any further information.**

Miss C. Middlebrook

Mrs J. Bourke

Mrs K. Merry

Useful websites and books for Year 6 SATs preparation

Books (available online or in WH Smiths)

- Collins: KS2 English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling SATs Question Book Age 10-11
- Collins: KS2 English Spelling SATs Question Book Age 10-11
- Collins: KS2 Maths Arithmetic SATs Question Book Age 10-11
- Collins: KS2 Maths Reasoning SATs Question Book Age 10-11
- CGP: Key Stage Two English SATs Question Book
- CGP: Key Stage Two Maths Standard Level SATs Question Book
- CGP: Key Stage Two Maths Advanced Level SATS Question Book
- CGP: Key Stage Two Maths Targeted Questions SATS Question Book
- CGP: KS2 English SAT Buster 10-Minute Tests Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling
- CGP: KS2 English SAT Buster 10-Minute Tests Reading Comprehension
- CGP: KS2 Maths SAT Buster 10-Minute Tests

Some useful websites

SPAG

<http://www.tmaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/SPaG-Coverage-Grid.pdf> - shows the full Y6 SPAG coverage with revision guide to accompany each aspect of SPAG

<http://www.tranmerepark.leeds.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Phrase-clause-explanation.pdf> - SPAG revision booklet of key grammatical terms

SATs Practise Papers

http://www.swaffield.wandsworth.sch.uk/beta-site/?page_id=7214 – practise SATs style papers for Reading, SPAG and Arithmetic, Y6 spelling list, along with useful revision powerpoints and links to useful websites.

www.twinkl.co.uk – requires subscription, but has lots of useful practise papers

www.tes.org.uk

www.theschoolrun.co.uk – requires subscription. Lots of useful information for parents