



Eagle Owls Autumn Term Update

Teacher: Miss C. Middlebrook
Support Assistants: Mrs J. Bourke and Mrs S. Bertram
Volunteers: Mrs Merritt and Mrs Domagalski

I hope that you have enjoyed the Summer holiday and are ready to start the new year in Eagle Owls! This is an important year for Year 6 pupils and we will endeavour to support and give you the best possible experience in your final year at Hambleton School as you prepare for the next adventure!

Topic

Following Miss Middlebrook's recent Canadian visit on the Young Farmers Travel Programme, our project for this term will be '**Canada: The adventure of a lifetime!**' This topic will involve locating and mapping Canada and its provinces within North America, with a specific focus on Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. We will learn about and map the physical geography of these provinces, such as: lakes, rivers and mountain ranges, as well as the human geography, such as: land use/agriculture, economic activity and tourism in these areas. Since this year is Canada's 150th birthday, we will also research and learn about the history of the country and Saskatchewan; exploring the life of the First Nations, the white settlement of Canada and the conflicts that followed. In conjunction with this, we will explore aspects of Canadian culture such as food, art and music.

In Art, the children will develop their observational sketching skills, use of tone and painting. We will begin by sketching and painting Canadian wildlife and animals. This will then follow on to looking at landscapes by Canadian artists Alan Hebert and Allan Sapp and attempting to replicate the same style from photographs of Canadian landscapes in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In DT, we will attempt to make some Canadian dishes!

Talk for Writing – Having received a letter from the ten year old Canadian boy in the family that I stayed with, we will begin by writing persuasive letters encouraging him to visit the UK, before eventually writing letters to others persuading them to visit Canada. We will then move onto writing adventure and mystery stories based in Canada, using an extract from 'Little House on the Prairie' by Laura Ingalls Wilder as the starting point for this. Finally, the children will produce their own persuasive travel brochures for different provinces of Canada; applying what they have learned from the topic. For each Literacy genre that we focus on, the children will continue to use the Pie Corbett approach of Imitate, Innovate, Invent to embed the features of a text type and enable them to produce a piece of writing in the same style. The children will complete a 'Cold Task' assessment prior to each unit, in which they are asked to write the text type independently in order to identify aspects of grammar/composition which need to be incorporated within the teaching. The children will continue to be encouraged to proof-read, edit and re-draft their writing.

Grammar, Spelling and Handwriting

Grammar, Spelling and Handwriting will now be taught as a whole class. All children will be issued with handwriting pens and there will be continued emphasis on excellent presentation and handwriting in all work, as children are now assessed on this in the SATs. There will be weekly discrete Grammar and Spelling lessons, as well as giving the children regular exercises and SATs-style questions/ten-minute tests during registration time. Weekly spellings will still be accessible on the SpelloDrome website and the children will be encouraged to apply these correctly in their writing. A list of the Y5/6 statutory spellings have also been issued with this letter and I would encourage you to keep practising these with your child 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 explore a range of text types in Talk for Writing, as well as giving the children short 10-minute exercises to continue to develop their comprehension skills during registration time. The children will continue to use Point, Evidence, Explanation to structure their answers.

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. There are many of my own books in the classroom which they are very welcome to read. I am also in the process of trying to set up reading sessions between the Year 6s and their Reception Buddies; whereby the Year 6s can choose an appropriate book to share with the younger child.

Maths – This will continue to be taught in year groups using the Singapore Maths approach ‘Maths – No Problem!’. The children will do whole class and guided practise on problems before completing independent practise in a workbook and writing their reflections in a Maths Journal. In preparation for SATs, there will also be regular short arithmetic test practise and regular practise of instant recall facts such as times tables and written methods. Any practise that you can do with your child on this at home, along with application to written problems, will only serve to help them further.

Science – This term we will be learning about Earth and Space, including modelling the solar system, how the movement of the earth and moon works and other investigations.

PE – PE coaching will take place every Wednesday morning 9.50-10.40. This will begin with sessions of Tag Rugby and be followed by sessions of Sports Hall Athletics. There will be competition preparation sessions on Wednesday afternoons for those children who are selected to compete. Gymnastics sessions will take place with the gymnastics coach on Thursday afternoons. We will also try to fit in a running/fitness session once a week too.

Routines

As the children are now in Eagle Owls, there will be an increased emphasis on them taking responsibility for their belongings and being independent in preparation for High School. Please can they ensure that they bring their full PE kit in at the start of every week and that all Library/Accelerated Reader books are carefully returned to school when completed. Also, please can they take responsibility for remembering to take water bottles/packed lunches home at the end of a day and leaving the tables, cloakroom and PE boxes as tidy as possible!

On a morning, children will have ten minutes to get a library book/take a quiz from 8.35-8.45, then they will be expected to be in the classroom from this point onwards, as it is important that we have this time to practise Maths/Literacy skills or gain extra support from Mrs Bertram/Mrs Bourke when they are with us.

Monday am: Times table practise, Guided Reading.

Tuesday: Spelling practise

Wednesday: Maths arithmetic/instant recall facts practise, Grammar, PE and Sports competitions coaching.

Thursday: Grammar and punctuation practise

Friday: Guided Reading questions practise and Young Leaders

Homework

Please can children continue to practise reading, spellings and times tables/division facts on a weekly basis at home, as well as consolidating their ongoing learning in class. Other homework tasks are optional, but they will complement and further enhance the learning that is taking place in class. 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. They have already had a first attempt at the 2017 SATs papers, which I have analysed to form a basis for this year’s teaching. I will give the children regular exercises, activities and tests throughout the year to fully prepare them for the SATs in May. The books and websites that I will be taking material from are attached if you would like to use these to help the children at home as well. Your partnership in helping to prepare and support the children for their SATs will be much appreciated.

We look forward to working with you all this year!

Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you require any further information.

Miss C. Middlebrook
Teacher

Mrs J. Bourke
Teaching Assistant

Mrs S. Bertram
Teaching Assistant

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