



## Eagle Owls Spring Term Update

Teacher: Miss C. Middlebrook  
Support Assistants: Mrs S. Bertram, Mrs K. Merry

I hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas holiday and are ready to start the new year in Eagle Owls! This is an important term for Year 6 pupils, in which they will need a lot of focus, and we will endeavour to guide them through this with your support.

### **Topic**

In preparation for the Y5/6 residential, we will be studying the Romans, followed by the Vikings. This will involve; when they were formed, their invasions and rule over Britain, the impact that they had on architecture, infrastructure, Art and medicine/public health and their armies.

In Art, we will explore Roman/Viking architecture, mosaics and weaponry; sketching them and having a go at making our own! We will also do artwork linked to our class novel 'The Hobbit' by J. R. R. Tolkien.

**Talk for Writing** – After being lucky enough to receive a visit from our 400m runner, Rob Shipley, just before Christmas, whose progress has recently documented in The Selby Times, we will be producing journalistic writing on the Durham University student's recent 400m performance in the Northern Indoor championships in Sheffield. Our fictional text for this term will be 'The Hobbit' by J.R.R Tolkien. From this we will produce different genres such as character/setting descriptions, creating our own mythical characters, riddles, songs and diary entries. 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. There will be an increased emphasis on the children proof-reading the grammar, spelling and punctuation of their writing carefully in accordance with Y5/6 expectations.

### **Grammar, Spelling and Handwriting**

There will be a continued emphasis on excellent presentation and handwriting in all work. Grammar sessions will continue to be integrated into daily English lessons, as well as giving the children regular exercises and SATs-style questions/ten-minute tests during registration time. Whole school Spelling will now 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. Application of the spellings will be one of the main ways to assess spellings on a weekly basis, whilst spelling tests will be carried out every few weeks on a cross-section of different spellings that the children have learned in that time. 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 be doing shorter daily Guided Reading sessions in which children will work on exam-style questions on a short text, read part of our whole class novel with Mrs Bertram or Mrs Merry, do a poetry-based handwriting activity, a Grammar activity and independent reading. I will also give the children short 10-minute exercises to continue to develop their comprehension skills during registration time. The children should continue to develop their use of 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. 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.

**Maths** – We will continue to work through the chapters in the Maths No Problem scheme; focusing on Percentages, then Converting Measures, Ratio & proportion, Position & movement & Geometry. In preparation for SATs, I will also do a weekly revision lesson to revise concepts that we have already covered and practise their application to problems and questions. There will also be regular short arithmetic test practise and please can you help your child to go through any papers that may be sent home for additional practise to then review in class. The children will be doing mock practise of the 3 Maths papers again just before February half-term, just as they did in November. I will also be running a weekly Maths Club with some 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 only serve to help them further and ensure that they can achieve their potential.

**Science** – This term we will be learning about Animals including humans, which will involve a focus on how the human body works, followed by the

**PE** – PE coaching will now 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.

### **Routines**

In preparation for High School, there will continue to be an increased emphasis on the children taking responsibility for their belongings and being independent, as well as exhibiting a mature attitude towards their learning. 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! This 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!

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 gain extra support from Mrs Bertram or Mrs Merry. 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:** Maths arithmetic/instant recall facts practise, PE and Sports competitions coaching (PM).

**Friday:** Spelling Lesson 2, Maths Revision lesson & 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, as well as consolidating their ongoing learning in class. There may also be practise papers sent home and revision tasks this term. Your help in supporting the children with such activities at home is much appreciated. Other homework tasks are optional and are mainly related to the Topic. 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 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The children had a second attempt at the 2017 SATs papers in a mock SATs practise at the end of November, in addition to ongoing question practise. We will continue to give the children regular exercises, activities, questions and tests to help to give them exam technique to achieve their potential. I have reattached the books and websites that I will be taking material from if you would like to use these to help the children at home as well. Thank you for your partnership in helping to prepare and support the children for their SATs so far, it is 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 S. Bertram**  
Teaching Assistant

**Mrs K. Merry**  
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](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](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – requires subscription, but has lots of useful practise papers

[www.tes.org.uk](http://www.tes.org.uk)

[www.theschoolrun.co.uk](http://www.theschoolrun.co.uk) – requires subscription. Lots of useful information for parents