



Year 6 Newsletter

Spring 1—2023/2024



Notices and Reminders

Please ensure:

- Five reads are completed at home as a priority for home learning;
- Water bottles only contain water;
- Jumpers and cardigans are clearly labelled;
- Long hair is tied back.

Reading

This half term, the children will be reading and analysing the text 'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve. This is a science fiction novel which is set in the future and will enthuse them to ask questions and encourage deeper thinking throughout. There will be many opportunities for the children to listen to the teacher and their peers read aloud, demonstrating how expression can be used to clarify meaning.



Writing

This term, the children are continuing their journey with Talk for Writing. Our first piece of writing will be based around a wishing tale where the focus will be on the setting, suspense and building atmosphere into the narrative. We will then move onto a non-fiction unit where we will be writing a recount in the form of a newspaper report. Across these texts, the children will learn how to use more sophisticated punctuation such as semi-colons and how to write with different levels of formality.



Key dates

Back to school - Tuesday 2nd January 2024

INSET DAY - Monday 15th January 2024

HALF TERM - Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

INSET DAY - Thursday 28th March 2024

Term dates can be found on our website here:

<https://www.hale.kite.academy/news-and-events/term-dates/>

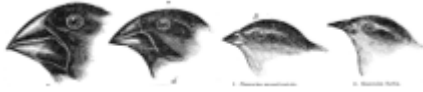
Maths

$$2x + 4$$

In maths next, the children will be learning about algebra and the use of letters and symbols to represent numbers and unknowns. Following this learning, the children will further deepen their understanding of decimals and solve questions involving decimal numbers using all the four operations. Whilst learning this new content, the children will continue to practise and hone their arithmetic skills.

Science

This term, the children will be learning about evolution, inheritance and fossils. We will start by exploring how genes are passed to offspring before learning about Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution. Specifically, we will be looking at Darwin's finches and how they adapted to suit their specific environment.



Geography

How has the Volga River been utilised throughout History?

The first half of the Spring term will be devoted to learning about Time Zones, grid-references and the Earth's biomes, including vegetation belts. Following this, the children will study Edinburgh and then look at the geographical aspects of Russia, including location, human and physical geographical features.

DT

This term, the children will research, design and make their very own 'steady-hand games' using a variety of 3D materials. They will have to consider the components of the game and such factors as function over form in the implementation of their designs. Once built, the games will be tested and evaluated.



PE

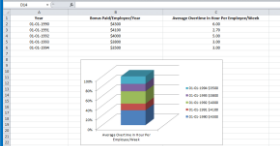
This term, the children will focus on learning skills used in the game of tennis. They will further develop their accuracy of serving, striking and maintaining a rally. The children will have opportunities to apply attacking and defending tactics in competitive situations.



Computing

Data Handling: How can spreadsheets help us?

This term, learning will build upon prior knowledge about databases and tables. Children will use Microsoft Excel. They will be learning what a spreadsheet is, how to input and data, understand



create formulas to calculate data and, finally, present their own data using diagrams and graphs.

PSHE

How can I look after my mental health?

It is important for children to learn how to be aware of their own, and others' mental health. They will learn how mental health is different, but linked, to physical health. Children will learn how to identify strategies that support positive mental health, what might affect mental health and ways to implement positive routines into their daily life.



French

This term, the children will be focusing on how to say twenty- one pieces of clothing in French. They will be exposed to authentic French accents from around the world to enable them to speak with a French accent. They will also learn how to correctly use the verb 'porter'(to wear) as well as the genders of each item - 'la/le'.



Suggested books for reading

'Nevertell' by Katharine Orton
'Ella on the outside' by Cath Howe
'Charles Darwin's on the origin of the species' by Sabina Radeva
'What Mr Darwin Saw' by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom
'If...: A Mind-Bending Way of Looking at Big Ideas & Numbers' by David J Smith