



January 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 3 in Heron Class! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas with your families!

This term, the book I have chosen to inspire our English writing is from the renowned English poet and playwright, the Bard, William Shakespeare. We are going to be immersing ourselves in the tragedy of the Roman general, Julius Caesar. We will hear how he returns victorious from war, but how power has made him ruthless and cold-hearted. A group of noblemen, led by the scheming Cassius and the naïve Brutus, conspire and plot to murder Caesar and bring peace to the land. Shakespeare's political thriller is an exciting tale of power, ambition and murder and I have no doubt that Heron class will yet again rise to the challenge and create some great work. We will be describing the crime scene within this play for our narrative unit as well as creating oral speeches and non-chronological reports. I am looking forward to seeing how Herons respond!

We have a History focus this term looking at the changes in Britain from Stone age to Iron age. We will become Archeologists and look at artefacts that we have discovered, using evidence to predict what period of history these artefacts may have come from as well as guessing what their purpose may have been. We will be creating timelines to plot where the Stone Age and Iron age is within history. We will also locate Skara Brae, a remarkably well-preserved Neolithic village in Orkney, Scotland, showcasing Stone Age life with its stone-built houses and then we will be comparing the life of a New Stone Age person to the way we live now.

P.E

This term, P.E lessons will continue to take place on **Monday** and **Wednesday** afternoons. As usual, children need to come into school on these days in full PE Kit (dark green round-necked t-shirt with school logo (available from www.myclothing.com) black shorts, black trainers, black jogging top (zip-up) and bottoms (for outside games). It is especially important that they bring **refillable** water bottles. We will be working on our trigolf and handball skills these days so they will get very thirsty!

Sports Coaching-

We will be continuing with our whole day enhanced coaching this term as part of our 'supercurricular offer' - provision that surpasses National Curriculum requirements. Herons' day will be confirmed nearer the time.

Breaktimes outside

Children will need to bring a waterproof coat everyday as the British weather is unpredictable. They need to continue to bring a water bottle and a whole-fruit snack to school every day as well, as they get hungry and thirsty by breaktime! You may like to buy them a snack card, available through Parentpay.

How you can help at home this term:

At South Moreton we do not set large pieces of homework, as educational research proves that this is of little value in Primary School, and our parents have supported this. **However, we do expect children to read daily, as this is the single most effective way to build academic success.** Reading at home is crucial for Herons to build the vocabulary, imagination and understanding they will need for their writing and other academic learning.

We have a weekly whole-school competition to reward 'Reading Nights', and ask that children read for 20 minutes per night Monday - Thursday, recording progress in their reading diary. Below are some question prompts to support you to read with your child and enjoy conversations with them about what they have read.

[KS2 Reading VIPERS](#)

Bring a reading book in every day- We read at every opportunity so it is important that they have one to pick up straight away when asked to.

Spellings: Children will be given their new spellings **every Wednesday this term**. The children will stick these into their new reading diaries so you will know what words they are practising. Please encourage your child to practise these (these spellings are also on the SPaG slides on Heron's Google Classroom-the children know their login details). They will write their spelling test scores on their spelling sheets for you to see in their reading diaries.

Children will then be tested in school every Wednesday afternoon to see what they have remembered.

Times Tables:

It is so important that your child is practising their times tables daily at home, and Year 4 pupils will be tested on these within the Government's Multiplication Check in the Summer Term. In class, children will have a times table **test every Wednesday afternoon**. Children need to be fluent with all their times tables as this helps support most of their maths work completed in lessons. To be fluent means to be able to confidently recall times tables facts within 3 seconds.

The mathsframe website is great to help practise times tables independently, so please encourage your child to do a little bit each day. It will help greatly with their confidence and fluency.

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

This is also another great resource the children can use:

https://talkingtimestables.uk/y4_ks2_mtc_practice_tests_multiplication_tables_check.php

Enrichment activities for this term based on our World Geography Unit

(Optional but I would love you to try these at home and then share with the class! DOJO rewards)

Make a Prehistoric Meal

Research what people in the Stone Age ate (e.g. berries, nuts, honey, roots, meat, simple flatbreads). Ideas: Make a simple Stone Age-style flatbread (flour, water, pinch of salt; cooked in a pan), create a "hunter-gatherer menu" showing foods eaten then vs now. Or write a short paragraph explaining why farming changed people's diets in the Neolithic period.

Become an Archaeologist

Create and Investigate an Artefact. Design or make a prehistoric artefact (e.g. stone axe, clay pot, iron sword model). You could make an artefact using clay, cardboard, foil, or recycled materials, draw it carefully and label: What it is made from, which period (Stone / Bronze / Iron Age), what it was used for. Write an "archaeologist's report" explaining what this artefact tells us about life at the time.

Visit a Museum Near Oxford

Prehistory Detective. **Suggested places:** Ashmolean Museum, Oxford - has prehistoric tools, jewellery, and weapons and Oxford University Museum of Natural History - excellent for early humans and materials. Find or research **one Stone Age, one Bronze Age, and one Iron Age object**., Sketch or photograph it. Answer: these questions: what material is it made from? What does this tell us about technology at the time? Which object shows the biggest improvement and why?

Design an Iron Age Hillfort

Plan or Build a Settlement. Draw a **bird's-eye view map** of an Iron Age hillfort. Label features: roundhouses, defensive walls, storage pits, animals OR build a small model using cardboard, Lego, or natural materials. **Challenge question:** Why were hillforts built on high ground?

Time Traveller's Diary

Life in Another Age. Choose to live in the **Stone Age, Bronze Age, or Iron Age**. Write a diary entry for one day in your life. Include: what you eat, where you live, tools you use, dangers or challenges

Extension: Add illustrations or compare your life then with your life now.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact with me if you have any questions.

Warm wishes

Mrs Salmon