



April 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 5 in Heron Class. Term 4 was such a successful one. Many of you continued to share photos with me showing the class how you made your Vegan bolognese at home (this was the focus of our food tech learning in term 3!) I loved seeing these, thank you!



This term, our DT unit of work focuses on Textiles. Heron Class are going to be making their very own pencil cases and I will be showing them how to sew on a zip fastening so they can keep their pencil safe from falling out. Children will need their growth mindset for this unit...it's a tricky one and their pencil cases need to be robust enough to be able to use them on a daily basis so we will be making sure our back stitch and zip fastenings are strong! For this unit we will be using recycled fabrics...

Please could you start gathering unwanted items of clothing/fabrics so that your child can make their pencil cases. In the past, these have been old pillow or cushion cases, jeans or other old shirts! Non stretch material works best. If these could be popped into a plastic bag with their names on it, that would be really helpful.

Last term, Herons wrote some beautifully descriptive work using figurative language based on a short film we watched together to inspire our English writing. The standard of work blew me away and Herons will be coming home with copies of these for you to enjoy too. They are all developing into talented young authors!. This term, we will be reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell- this is a brilliant book full of adventure!. Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they're on crashes. For days they survive alone, until Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret... We will be inspired by the characters within this book to create a new, unwritten chapter using dialogue to convey the emotions and characters of the protagonists within the story. I'm looking forward to seeing how they respond to this!

We have a Geography focus this term looking at Mighty Rivers. We will be focussing on the Amazon River as this ties in well with our class book. Not only will we be using maps to locate the River, but we will look at its physical features. We will also explore the Yanomami Tribe in the Amazon and make comparisons to the way we live

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 keeping fit and football skills on these days so they will get very thirsty!

Sports Coaching-

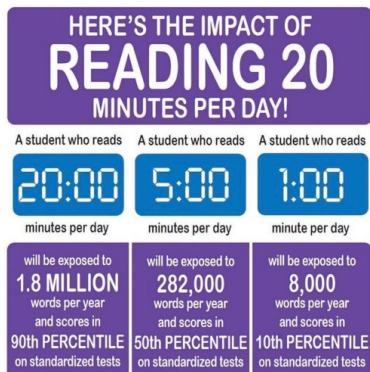
We will be continuing with our whole day enhanced coaching this term as part of our 'supercurricular offer' - provision that surpasses National Curriculum requirements. Herons' day will be confirmed nearer the time.

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**. 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). **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 on the week of **Monday 1st June**. 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>

Enrichment activities for this term based on our Geography unit about The Amazon River

1. Create an Amazon River Factbook (Writing & Research)

Children can make a mini-book with sections such as wildlife, tribes, plants, climate, and river geography. They could include labelled diagrams and maps as well

2. Visit a museum

Oxford University Museum of Natural History - explore rainforest insects, fossils, and biodiversity displays.
Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford) - discover artefacts from Indigenous peoples of the Americas, including tools, clothing, and cultural objects. After the visit, children can write a short reflection titled "What I Learned About Life in the Amazon".

3. Cook an Amazon-Inspired Dish

Children can help prepare simple dishes inspired by Amazon ingredients, such as banana fritters, grilled fish with lime, or cassava-style flatbreads (using UK-available ingredients). They could write a recipe card and illustrate it!

4. Amazon River Art

Using any media,, children can create a bird's eye map of the Amazon River. They can add animals that live along the river (e.g., pink river dolphins, piranhas, macaws). For an extra challenge, they can label the countries the river flows through.

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

Warm wishes

Mrs Salmon