



September 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 1 in Heron Class! I hope you have all had a brilliant summer, full of sunshine! I am so excited to get to know all our Year 4 Herons this year and have another year with Year 5 Herons to get to know you even better - I feel privileged to have you again!

As some of you may already know, I am a huge book fan...I love stories! I really enjoy choosing books to read in Heron Class and these books always influence our writing units in English. Well, I have chosen a brilliant one for this term (which I have read before and and I have no doubt Herons will love it as much as me!). This book is a gripping page-turner from the master of spooky suspense, award-winning Robert Swindells. It's called 'Room 13'

'Somebody was in there. Somebody - or some thing...There is no Room 13 in the creepy Crow's Nest Hotel, where Fliss and her friends are staying on a school trip. Or is there?'

We will be inspired by this book and analyse what it takes to be an effective writer of suspense, looking at figurative language and exploring tier 2 vocabulary and sentence lengths to create atmosphere in our own narratives. We will also be delving into persuasive writing and the language needed to try to persuade potential customers to actually stay at the Crows Nest Hotel (the hotel featured in our class book). This will be challenging...it is not a great place to stay! Poetry is also a huge love of mine and we are going to be exploring the work of Charlotte Bronte, one of my favourite poets. We will be 'pulling apart' a great one called 'Momentos'. I've chosen this poem as, in many ways, it is quite a haunting piece of work which I feel works well alongside our class book.

We will have a Geography focus for this term, looking at World Geography. We will be familiarising ourselves with the continents of the world, looking at the countries within these continents and finding their major cities using digital maps and atlases. We will also explore environmental features as well as climates. We will all be World Geography experts by the end of the term! There are some optional enrichment activities based on this unit at the bottom of this letter. Extra housepoints will be awarded to those who complete them!

P.E

This term, P.E lessons will 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 water **refillable** bottles. We will be working on our hockey and dance skills on these days so they will get very thirsty!

Sports Coaching-

We will be continuing with our whole day coaching this term. 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 are launching 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.

Bug Club ebooks are available as before at activelearnprimary.co.uk with your child's login

Spellings: Children will be given their new spellings **every Monday 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 Friday afternoon to see what they have remembered.

Times Tables:

It is so important that your child is practising their times tables daily at home. 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 we would love you to try these at home and then share with the class!)

Plan a Dream Trip

- Choose a destination anywhere in the world

- Plan a travel itinerary: how would you get there, what would you pack based on the climate, what places would you visit?
- Include a map showing the route from the UK to the destination
- You can present their trip as a travel brochure or diary entry

Global Weather Watch

- Track the weather in 3 different countries for a week (e.g. UK, Brazil, Russia)
- Record temperature, rainfall, and any extreme weather events
- Compare and contrast the climates and discuss why they differ (e.g. latitude, proximity to oceans, altitude)
- Present findings in a chart or similar

Compass challenge. Mapping your home to the world

- Start with a simple sketch map of your home or local area
- Add compass directions and scale
- Then, zoom out: draw a map showing your town, country, continent, and where it sits in the world
- Use online maps or atlases to help with accuracy

World Landmark Scrapbook

- Pick 5 famous landmarks (e.g. Great Wall of China, Amazon Rainforest, Mount Kilimanjaro)
- Find out where they are located and what makes them special
- Create a scrapbook page for each with pictures, facts, and a short paragraph explaining why it's important
- Encourage use of geographical vocabulary like "plateau," "ecosystem," or "urban"

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

Warm wishes

Mrs Salmon