



November 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 2 in Heron Class! I hope you all took the opportunity to read the children's English suspense narratives which they took home with them based on our class book, Room 13?. Herons were so proud of themselves, quite rightly! They really are developing into confident young authors and I have no doubt that they will continue to develop their flourishing authorial skills in their next English unit this term.

I have chosen another one of my favourite books to inspire our own writing this term...'*Malamander*' by Thomas Taylor. This is a mystery adventure novel set in the misty seaside town of Eerie-on-Sea, where a boy named Herbert Lemon, the hotel's Lost and Founder, teams up with a girl named Violet Parma to find her missing parents. It has a gripping plot, charming characters, imaginative world-building and cliffhanger chapter endings that make it hard to put down...Heron's love a cliffhanger so I think they are going to love this! We are going to explore effective character descriptions based on this book using figurative language, adjectives and tier 2 vocabulary as well as formal letter writing. We will also explore metaphor poetry as we write our own 'Flotsam' poems based on the collected items that a character has found on the seashore in the book too!

Our Geography focus this term is on North and South America. We will be familiarising ourselves with the continents of the world again to see what we have remembered from last term. We will be looking at the countries within North and South America and finding their major cities using digital maps and atlases. We will also explore environmental features as well as climate. 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 **Tuesday** 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 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. 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!)

Create a "Continent in a Box"

Task: To Create a shoebox model showing one landscape from North or South America — for example: The Amazon Rainforest, The Rocky Mountains, The Grand Canyon, The Andes

Include labels for features (mountain, river, vegetation, wildlife) and a small fact card about its climate and biome.

Postcard from the Americas"

Task: Imagine you are visiting a famous region — e.g., the **Atacama Desert, Amazon Basin, or New York City**.

Write a **postcard home** describing: What the landscape looks like, what the weather feels like, what people are doing there, how it's different or similar to the UK

Include drawings or photos to decorate your postcard.

Taste of the Americas"

Task: Research a traditional dish from either continent (e.g., tacos, empanadas, feijoada, poutine).

With adult supervision, help make the dish at home.

Write a short **"food report"** explaining: Where the ingredients come from, why this food is popular in that region, how climate affects what people eat. (Optional: Bring in photos or recipe cards for a class "Americas Cookbook.")

American Wonders Fact File"

Task:

Choose one **natural or man-made wonder** from the Americas, such as: Niagara Falls, Machu Picchu, The Grand Canyon, Christ the Redeemer, The Amazon River

Create a **fact file or mini poster** including: A labelled picture or diagram, facts about how it was formed (physical geography) why it's important to people today (human geography), How it compares to a UK landmark (e.g., Snowdonia, Lake District)

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

Warm wishes

Mrs Salmon