



## Kestrel's Newsletter Autumn Term 2016

Welcome back, I hope that everybody has had a good Summer break. It has been nice to see the children return to school this week with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm. This term we will be exploring rivers. We will begin by taking an inspiring boat trip along the river Great Ouse, on our doorstep. We will be investigating the physical geography of rivers and how they are formed as part of the water cycle. We will explore the crucial role in they have played in the development of modern day societies. As well as looking at the role they may have to play in the future and our "Hydro- powered light bulb challenge!" We will be looking for adventure on the river and will be inspired by our class text; Swallows and Amazons. Our residential trip to Stibbington will be a key event allowing us more field work when investigating rivers. Please see below for an overview of the work we will be doing throughout this autumn term.

<p><b>English</b></p> 	<p>This term we will start by learning about non-fiction texts including; explanations of the water cycle, recounts of our residential trip and chronological reports about the role of rivers in the development of industry with particular reference to water mills. As well as instructions for the construction of our own water mills. We will be inspired by the river to write poetry in the style of Kennings. We will immerse ourselves in the class text "Swallows and Amazons" which will inspire our own stories of adventures on the river, secret languages, flag making and map drawing. Each week the children will also be working on key grammar skills and spelling rules. Throughout this half term our main grammar focus will be on using full stops and capital letters accurately. Also using a range of sophisticated connectives to extend sentences. There will also be weekly guided reading sessions.</p>
<p><b>Maths</b></p> 	<p>Each day the children will take part in a daily Mathematics session. During the first half of the term the children will be developing their understanding of place value up to 4 digit numbers. They will also be developing their knowledge of strategies to solve addition and subtraction sums using mental and written strategies. We will be exploring equivalent fractions and some simple decimals. After half term we will be furthering our knowledge of multiplication and division. Throughout the term we will be applying our knowledge through problem solving and number puzzles including simple algebra. As part of our topic we will be drawing and reading maps using 4 coordinates and developing our direction work.</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> 	<p>This term science lessons will focus on the river topic. We will be investigating how rivers form and the importance of the water cycle. Using visual models we will explore the terms flooding, erosion and transportation and their effect on our landscape. We will explore how the force of the river can be exploited to work for us and how this has been important to industry in the past. This will lead to looking at hydro power and the possible role of water wheels as a renewable energy for the future, with our "hydro powered light bulb challenge". This will also involve constructing electrical circuits.</p>
<p><b>Computing</b></p> 	<p>This term's lessons will be focusing on E-safety using the SMART crew as a guide. We will also be constructing our own photo stories for a visual recount of our residential trip to Stibbington. We will also be exploring the development of computers and how they have changed the way we live. We will investigate the difference between the World Wide Web and the internet.</p>

<b>Geography</b> 	<p>We will be identifying the physical features of a river and illustrate these by making simple models. We will be observing these features on our trips to the river. We will also be researching the human geography of river, settlements and transportation.</p>
<b>History</b>	<p>We will be investigating how rivers have played a crucial role in the development of our society. We will look for links between human settlements and the position of rivers throughout the UK and draw conclusions as to the reasons for these patterns. We will look specifically at the role of rivers in industry, with particular reference to the water mill.</p>
 <b>Art &amp; Design</b> <b>Technology</b>	<p>In art this term we will be sketching and painting rivers focusing specifically on the symmetry and reflections they produce.  In DT the children will be designing and constructing their own water wheels and electrical circuits to complete our DT hydro-power challenge.</p>
<b>Music</b> 	<p>This term the children will be sharing, appraising and performing to some popular music focusing on the pop group Abba.</p>
<b>PSHE</b> 	<p>PSHE this term will focus on making good choices and accepting responsibility for ourselves and the consequences of our choices. We will be looking at developing good relationships and managing them ourselves.</p>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<p>This half term the children will tag rugby and gymnastics. The children will be doing PE on Wednesdays and Fridays, could you please ensure your child has a kit in school every day.</p>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<p>This term we are looking at special journeys and in particular the symbolism of water in religion.</p>
<b>MFL</b> 	<p>This term the children will continue learning German.   We will be speaking, reading, writing and singing in German!</p>
<b>Other Information</b>	<p>Home learning will follow the same format as last term. We will continue to set tasks where the children will have the opportunity to extend their learning at home in a creative manner. Spellings and times tables will continue as usual.</p>

And finally...

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Amy MacLennan