



Year 4 Sparrowhawks News

Autumn Term 1 2017

**Etwell Primary
School**

Welcome back! We hope you have had a summer break and are rested and ready for the new year in school.

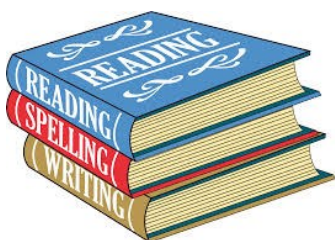
Maths and English

Remember:

- * PE kits need to be in school every day.
- * Reading diaries will be checked every Monday.
- * Swimming is on Tuesday.
- * Spelling test is every Monday. Please support your child in learning their spellings. Children will often be asked to learn a rule to apply to their spellings.
- * Children will have mental maths and writing targets glued into their reading diaries. Times table are also expected to be practiced every week.
- * Please can you ensure that your child always has an old shirt/apron in their PE bag for art and design lessons, as they can get quite messy!

English

In English this term we will be exploring classic fiction (Tom's Midnight Garden) and instructions. In our guided reading lessons, we will be working on our inference and deduction skills. Through our English work we will develop our knowledge of spellings,



punctuation and grammar (spag), and we will work on our use of a cursive script in hand-writing practice.

Maths

In maths this term we will be solving a range of number and practical problems involving numbers up to ten million, using formal calculation methods for the four operations. Although we will be practising our mul-

tiplication facts in school, the quicker the children can recall these facts, the easier they will find the whole maths curriculum. Please encourage your child to practise these at home. Thank you.



Other subjects

Our topic work this term is 'Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?' We will be learning about the achievements of the Vikings and the impact the Vikings had on our society. Our science topic is

'How can you light up your life?'. This involves considering how shadows change throughout the day and the range of light sources. In RE our topic is 'What can we learn from religions about deciding what is right and wrong?' In

Citizenship our theme is 'Changes' and 'Getting on and falling out.'

In PE we will be completing orienteering activities. In German we will learn greetings, classroom commands and numbers. Our computing topic will be basic skills and art will be structures. In music we will be reading music and playing the glockenspiel.

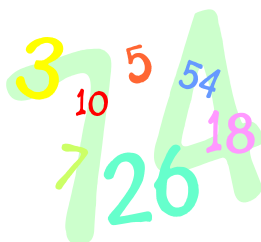
Rapid Number Recall

Rapid number recall is based on the belief that if children have rapid recall of key facts in maths, they will find all other areas of the maths curriculum much easier. For example, when being asked to find out the fraction of an amount, if they have good understanding of their multiplication facts, they will find this much easier.

There are 8 steps in the programme, and within each step there are several objectives. Your child's teacher will initially tell your child where they will start and then they will work through the steps in order.

You will find the step that your child is working on, and the target within that step, in their reading journal, along with ideas about how you can help them to achieve this target. Children will also have time to practice these in school, but obviously the more help they get the quicker they will achieve!

Each target has a 24 question quiz that children will be asked to complete at least once a week. When they can get 100% three times, children will move on to the next target. The progress your child is making will be recorded in their reading diaries so that



Year 3/4 Staff

The teachers in Kestrels, Falcons and Sparrowhawks this year are Miss Gale and Mrs Dawson (Kestrels), Mr Jowett (Falcons) and Miss Marriott (Sparrowhawks). The teaching assistants are Mrs Dorrington (Falcons), Mrs Dickinson (Kestrels) and Miss Jacobs (Sparrowhawks), who are all experienced Teaching Assistants and are a great help and support to the children, (and teachers!)



Parent helpers

If any parents/grandparents etc could spare half a day a week (or more!) to listen to children read, they would be made very welcome, and it would be very much appreciated. The more children read the better, and the more confident they become. Please could you let your child's teacher know if you are able to help. There is a short induction now in place if you would like to be a volunteer. Please ask us about this easy process! Thank you.

Online Safety—Games

Are you aware of the games your children are playing? Are they age appropriate? If they're playing online, is there a chat/private chat function? Are you happy with this? Go through their devices with them and check those games on the Common Sense Media website (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>) to satisfy yourself that you are happy with them (<http://www.esafety-adviser.com>).



Swimming

This year Kestrels, Falcons and Sparrowhawks will be swimming on a Tuesday. Please ensure kits are in school every week at the start of the school day.

Useful Websites

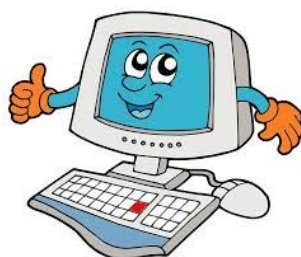
We often get asked if we can recommend any websites that your child could go on to help them with their school work. Here are a couple that you might find useful:

www.interactive-resources.co.uk

The pupil log in and password are the same and are 'epspupil'. There is a folder for each class and when this is clicked on the games are regularly updated.

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar

This website has on it some spelling and grammar games to help your child with the grammar and spelling objectives that we will be covering in class. There are notes to read, games to play and quizzes to do.



PG films

Throughout the year the children may be watching clips from PG films to support their learning. If you have any questions about this, please come and see your child's class teacher.



Key dates for your diary

4th September—INSET day

5th September—Children start back

20th September—PTFA Meeting

12th October—Individual photographs

16th and 19th October—3.45—6.30pm—Parent Consultations

20th October—Last day of term.

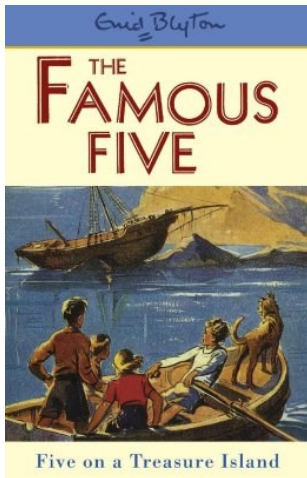


Pencil Cases

Class teachers have had a few unnecessary issues with children's pencil cases this year. Some children are bringing in many of the items provided by school eg pencils, rulers, protractors, pencil crayons, erasers etc. All these items are not needed in school as *all stationery that children need for school is provided for them in the classroom*. The size of pencil cases have also been a big issue as they do not fit in your child's tray and so are left on tables where they can be very distracting for the children when they are learning, and when things get lost, it creates a lot of upset.

We are therefore going to start the new school year in September with no pencil cases in school please. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Recommended Reads



The Famous Five By: Enid Blyton

Julian, Dick and Anne are excited about spending their holidays at Kirrin Bay, and meeting their cousin Georgina for the first time.

Meanwhile, George is determined not to make friends with her cousins, but in spite of her initial reluctance she soon finds herself drawn into an exciting adventure, when an old shipwreck off Kirrin Island leads to the discovery of long-forgotten treasure.

Complete with a ruined castle, secret caves and of course, plenty of seaside picnics, this has all the ingredients of a nostalgic Famous Five adventure, and is sure to be enjoyed by young readers discovering Blyton for the first time, as well as existing fans

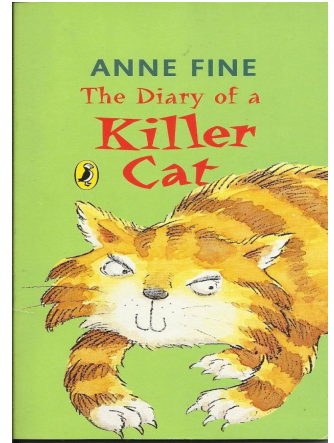
Recommended Reads

The Diary of a Killer By: Anne Fine

Poor Ellie is horrified when Tuffy drags a dead bird into the house. Then a mouse. But Tuffy can't understand what all the fuss is about.

Who on earth will be the next victim to arrive through the cat-flap? Can soft-hearted Ellie manage to get her beloved pet to change his wild, wild ways before he ends up in even deeper trouble?

The hilarious antics of Tuffy and his family as told by the killer cat himself.



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4th September—INSET day

