

Welcome to Heron Class



2025-26

Year 6

Teacher: Mr Jones

Challenge, Commit, Conquer, Celebrate

Hello Young Heron!

Welcome to the greatest class in the entire school! I have personally selected you to become part of the Heron family for this coming year, where we will embark on an epic journey in learning. You obviously have the best teacher in the school and no doubt, we will have a fantastic time together.

As a keen athlete, I enjoy every sport and take great pleasure in following Manchester United around the country. I am passionate about giving pupils the opportunity to try different and new sports. Additionally, I love reading, and my favourite book is *The Nowhere Emporium* and I hope you all love reading and sport too!

In our class, my expectations for behaviour are extremely high, and this will help us have the best time learning. I expect all young Herons to try new things and to give 100% effort whilst doing so. However, learning is supposed to be fun, engaging and exciting where we will develop our curiosity through asking questions and exploring to find answers to these questions. When you leave Heron class and St. White's, you will be ready for the next stage in your learning and you will be ready to face any challenge that may appear.

In Heron class, all of its pupils are always ready to learn, respectful to every adult and every peer, and should always feel as if they are in a safe and stimulating environment. If any pupil has any issues, then I am always ready to listen and try my best to help.

As you are now entering the final year of primary school, the expectations and responsibility will be higher than ever. We have so many things to look forward to this year, including residential, sporting trips, performance poetry, SATs and the Year 6 play, to name a few. I cannot wait to begin our journey in learning, where I know you will all work super hard and enjoy the process along the way.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Jones

KS2 Lead and PE Lead

Mathematics

What will I learn in year 6?

We will build on what you have learnt in year 5 as well as introducing some new areas of maths. This will include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- **Number and place value** - Reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to at least 10,000,000 and determining the value of each digit.
- **Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division** – Using written methods for calculations and learning about BIDMAS for the order of operations.
- **Fractions including decimals and percentages** – Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals and using mixed numbers.
- **Ratio & proportion** – Finding percentages of amounts and using ratio and proportion in word problems.
- **Algebra** – Simple formulae and missing number problems.
- **Measurement** – Converting between metric measurements and between miles and km; volume of cuboids; and area and perimeter of shapes such as parallelograms and triangles.
- **Geometry (properties of shapes)** – Classifying shapes, finding unknown angles, using nets to build 3-D shapes and angle work using a protractor.
- **Geometry (position and direction)** – Plotting points on a quadrant using the x-axis and y-axis.
- **Statistics** – Using pie charts and line graphs to solve problems as well as calculating the mean as an average.

Timetables are still extremely important when entering year 6 and by now you should be able to rapidly recall all 12 times tables. If you are not quite there yet, then please use this opportunity of being at home to be playing TT Rockstar's and practicing times tables. Last year, I had some of the quickest timetable's players in the school, it would be great if we can keep that going this year and take over the whole leader board!

Here is the order I would learn them (and some helpful hints!):

x10 x2 x5 (all 5s end in either 5 or 0!) **x4** (double the 2s!) **x9** (have you learnt how to use your fingers to help you?) **x3 x6** (double the 3s!) **x8** (double the 4s!) **x7 x11 x12**

Remember that 3×4 and 4×3 give the same answer so there are actually fewer to learn than you think!

Websites to support learning at home

TT rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables (Contact me if you are not sure of your login – it will be the same as this year and I will be able to see your brilliant progress)

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them) (This is the same login as TT Rockstars)

Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Thinking Blocks - <https://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html> - problem solving questions that can be modelled step by step – some of these problems get quite challenging!

Will I have to do maths at home?

The short answer is 'yes!' All the time if possible – adding up prices in the shop and weighing ingredients for cooking are just some of the useful activities for building confidence with number.

In addition to this, you will have maths homework to complete weekly – this will all be explained soon.

Where can I find out more information to help me and my parents?

Check out the Heron webpage for any resources linked to the areas that we currently learning in all subjects. If there is something that you would like support with that isn't on there, please contact me!

Reading

Reading will be a key part of your time in Heron Class. I love sharing new novels with you and so we will take every opportunity to read and talk about books together!

Which books will I read this year in Heron Class?

I'm not going to tell you! Our class novels will be a surprise and revealed at the beginning of every term – sometimes they are wrapped up with clues to guess what they are.

Others books that you read will be a mixture of ones that you choose and ones that I think you will enjoy!

Which reading skills will I learn this year?

You will continue to develop the skills of retrieval, clarifying vocabulary, inference and summarising amongst others that you have learnt in year 5 but some of the texts will be more complex. You will always be encouraged to back up your answers with evidence from the text.

Will I have to do reading homework?

You will need to aim to complete a reading activity daily for a minimum of 10 minutes – this could be listening to an audio book; reading to a parent/sibling/teddy bear/cat; reading to yourself; filming yourself reading; using read theory or recommending a book to others. You will be asked to write your home reading in to your reading record at least 5 times a week. Because I am so passionate about reading, I will find opportunities to support you with your reading at lunchtime if you are unable to complete your daily 10 minutes at home.

In addition, you will have a book that is the same as a group of your friends. You will have tasks to complete weekly on the book and meet together to discuss what is happening.

Please can we have some recommendations?

Go on then! I don't want to give away all my good books now but will share with you some favourites that you might like to try!



Writing

In writing this year we are going to have to work harder than ever. Like everything else, my expectations are high and all pupils in Heron Class should be joining their handwriting all of the time. This is something we will be working on over the year, below is an example of the correct letter formation and expectations for year 5 and 6.

Spelling

Spelling this year will be the same as last year. Pupils will be provided with dictations that include spellings that do not follow a rule and need to be 'learnt'. This is because in school we will be working on all the other spelling rules in spellings lessons over the year.



Pupils will be tested every Friday morning and if they are able to correctly spell their dictations they will receive a stamp in their reading record and move onto the next list. If you are not in school on a Friday, you will have to wait until the following week to be tested and we will need to use any other time for other learning. The key to success in spellings is practice!

I am thrilled to announce that the Spelling Bee is back again next year! Who will be our next champion? The competition will be fierce and as your teacher, I must admit I am quite competitive, so start practicing and let's aim for the top!

<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>

Here are your dictations for the upcoming year.

Year 5/6 word lists

<u>List 1</u> muscle necessary queue rhythm vegetable	<u>List 2</u> bruise curiosity embarrass explanation sincerely	<u>List 3</u> competition foreign leisure rhyme yacht	<u>List 4</u> achieve determined profession restaurant twelfth	<u>List 5</u> ancient familiar guarantee language symbol
<u>List 6</u> attached forty identify soldier vehicle	<u>List 7</u> awkward immediate opportunity shoulder stomach	<u>List 8</u> according bargain desperate excellent neighbour	<u>List 9</u> conscience harass individual interfere nuisance	<u>List 10</u> conscious controversy disastrous existence persuade
<u>List 11</u> appreciate community critic marvellous occur	<u>List 12</u> dictionary equip recommend secretary sufficient	<u>List 13</u> apparent develop frequently hindrance temperature	<u>List 14</u> aggressive available communicate lightning mischievous	<u>List 15</u> interrupt government occupy parliament programme
<u>List 16</u> accommodate cemetery committee suggest variety	<u>List 17</u> accompany convenience environment recognise sacrifice	<u>List 18</u> amateur category definite physical thorough	<u>List 19</u> correspond especially exaggerate pronunciation system	<u>List 20</u> average prejudice privilege relevant sincere

Other areas of learning

What will you do if I need some extra help with my learning?

Within the class, there will be people who have different starting points in different subjects. We will use a mixture of pre-teaching the day before, breaking things down into small steps, interventions and challenges to make sure that everyone is learning.



Over the year, you may be invited to a morning group with a small group of your friends from 8am. We will do some targeted work together and then enjoy a chocolate biscuit before everyone else gets to school. Personal invitations will be sent out to those who will benefit from the focus on particular day during a particular term and groups will change over the year.

Can I find out more information at home?

I am always keen to hear about anything you have learnt at home – particularly if you have found out more about something we have looked at in class. In addition. You will be given POWER project sheets. These are optional tasks that can be completed at home with your family. I am sure they are looking forward to sharing all of your learning with you.

Will I get to learn outside?

We hope so – come rain or shine! We will have two PE sessions a week (currently timetabled for a Thursday and Friday). You will be expected to take responsibility for making sure you have your PE kit in school on these days. If you are unsure of what to include in your PE kit, I will attach the list below:

The Physical Education kit is:

Plain white or pale blue T-shirt (pupils must change their t-shirt for PE)

Black or navy shorts

Black plimsolls (daps)

Dark trainers (for outside wear)

Navy, grey or black tracksuit for cold weather

Remember to put your name in all items of your PE kit!

We will have opportunities to take part in Forest School sessions and work on the allotment over the year.

What do I need to do to prepare for going to Aberdovey?

We hope that year 6 will be off on our trip to Aberdovey next term but there are a few things that you need to start practising now to prepare for it:

- Making your bed – and keeping your room tidy! There will be room inspections every morning. This includes being able to put the pillow in the pillow case; the duvet in the duvet cover and the sheet on the mattress!
- Tying your shoe laces. You will be expected to tie up the shoe laces on the walking boots which they will provide for you. It is important that you are confident in tying your laces tightly so that they support your ankles when we are off on our long walks.
- Reading the time on an analogue clock. You will be expected to take responsibility as a group to get to the meeting points with your instructors on time.

I want you to know that my classroom door is always open. If you ever have questions, concerns, or just want to check in about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to stop by. I believe that strong partnerships between home and school make a big difference for students.

If visiting in person is not convenient, you are also welcome to reach out to me anytime by email at heron@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk

I will always do my best to respond promptly and keep you updated.

I hope you are looking forward to the start of the year in Heron class!