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			<b>UKS2 Team</b> Mrs Sager Miss Spratt Miss Westlake Mrs Edwards Mrs Pepler Mrs Cook
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**Curriculum Overview**  
**Term 3- January 2024**  
**Kestrel, Osprey and Falcon**  
**Classes- Year 5/6**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a very relaxing Christmas and are ready for another term. The children made a fantastic start in the Autumn term and we know that this coming term will provide more brilliant opportunities for the children to continue their learning.

**Topic**

Our units of work this term are centred on two main areas of learning. In History, we will be exploring the hidden cities of the Ancient Maya in the jungles of Central America. We will find out about the Mayan way of life and their beliefs, using artefacts and pictures of the ruins to help us build a picture of the past. We will then compare and contrast the Mayan Civilisation to contemporaneous British society. Also, we will investigate how the Maya treated the rainforest compared to how we do today.

We shall then be directing our learning towards a Science unit where we will investigate Materials and their properties.

In Maths, we will work on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages and the links between them. Our work in Guided Reading will be based on 'The Explorers', an adventure novel by Katherine Rundell. In English we will study The Listeners by Walter de La Mare and then draft our own versions using this as a stimulus. This term, our non-fiction writing focus. will be balanced argument.

**Home Learning**

It is still essential that the children are completing home learning tasks in order to consolidate their learning. Spellings will continue to be sent home on a Friday for the following week. We recommend that the children spend a short amount of time each day practising these.

Daily	Weekly
Regular reading both independently and with an adult/older sibling. Please record reading in the Reading Record/ homework planner. Maths/ number facts/ times tables practice. Spelling practice either on Spellingframe or on the statutory word sheets.	Spellings- Homework task set each Friday due in for the following Friday. We will alternate each week between setting spelling patterns on Spellingframe and setting statutory words in their spelling folders.

Home learning tasks are designed to support and reinforce essential learning and provide opportunities for you and your children to share learning experiences. Completion of tasks will be monitored and celebrated.

The children have now been issued with their Homework Diaries. Please ensure that the children's homework diaries are checked, signed and filled in to indicate when they have done home learning including reading.

### **Reading**

Reading is an essential part of the children's learning and we cannot stress enough how beneficial it is for the children to be reading regularly at home. Children in Upper Key Stage Two are encouraged to develop stamina in reading. We will ensure that the book children are reading is appropriately pitched for their ability (whether this is a book they have borrowed from school or a book they are reading from home) and they are encouraged to read whole texts rather than flitting between books. This will enable them to develop their stamina in reading and understanding of character and plot development. If children would like to read other books or texts (including newspapers, magazines and comics) in addition to their reading book, then we encourage this but they may need to share these with an adult if they are beyond their capability.

### **Expectations and responsibilities**

#### **PE Kit**

PE sessions will be held on the days stated below; however, there will be occasions where we will need to be flexible so please ensure your child has their PE kit available in school every day.

PE kit should consist of black shorts or jogging bottoms, their house coloured plain t-shirt and their school jumper. Please could be items be named.

Falcon – Thursday and Friday

Osprey – Tuesday and Friday

Kestrel – Monday and Wednesday

#### **Stationery and other personal belongings**

The children are provided with all the equipment they will need on a day-to-day basis; therefore, children do not need to have their own pencil cases in school. However, they may bring a small pencil case if they wish. We ask the children to be respectful of other people's belongings.

Children should bring in a bottle of **water** (preferably with a sports cap) for use within the classroom.

#### **Planning time**

Each week, the teachers in our phase have planning and preparation time, which they complete out of class. This will be on the following days, with the following cover arrangements:

Kestrel – Tuesday (all day) covered by Mrs Pennington

Falcon – Thursday morning covered by Mrs Edwards

Osprey – Wednesday (all day) covered by Mrs Pennington

#### **Behaviour**

In Upper Key Stage Two, we expect all children to be role models to younger children and to be demonstrating the high expectations we have of behaviour and conduct, both in and out of the classroom, and of their attitude to learning.

We will continue this year to embed our Paxcroft citizen values of kindness, honesty and respect and these will be celebrated at all times.

As one of our learner's values, we encourage the children's independence in communicating messages; however, any important messages can be communicated via email to the office [admin@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk) or please feel free to pop in and see us; we hold an open door policy and are more than happy to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sager, Miss Spratt and Miss Westlake