



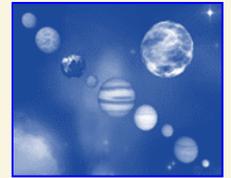
Dear families,

I hope you all had a good half-term break and children had a chance to re-charge their batteries. Last term was a busy one full of wonderful writing and topic work; this term promises to be busier still starting off with Bikeability and our new Earth, Sun and Moon topic! I have been very impressed with children's reading at home so far – it looks like I am going to be making a chocolate cake for us all at the end of the year! Please keep up the great work – even though children are getting older and can read independently, it is still beneficial for them to read aloud at least a couple of times each week.

Miss Thompson



Term 2 Topic: *Earth, Sun and Moon*



Earth, Sun and Moon is the new Class 5 topic! Children will start by creating a scaled-down 'map' of the solar system on The Green, using toilet roll and fruits to accurately scale the size of and distance between the planets.

In science, children will be studying Space and the movement of the Earth and other planets in relation to the Sun and the Solar System. They will be using the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky. They will then be looking at how the tilt of the Earth on its axis creates the seasons. Their science work will be complemented by a trip to the Space Centre where they will participate in an Earth, Sun and Moon workshop.

In history, the children will discover how ideas about space have developed through the ages as well as learning about how 'The Space Race' between Russia and the USA led to massive developments in space exploration.

In art, children will be studying the art of Peter Thorpe. They will create their own abstract space painting on cardboard and then add a relief sculpture of a Space image which they will craft from layered cardboard on top. In DT, children will be designing bottle rockets, using their scientific knowledge to make and test design choices.

In literacy, we will be entering the realms of science fiction by creating our very own little alien out of clay and then creating a fact-file about it using scientific vocabulary. Children will then be developing their use of more advanced sentence structures and punctuation to create an 'Animalium'-style information text. Following on from this, children will be telling the story of how their creatures were found through diary-style recounts and newspaper articles.

In ICT, children will be learning to use Adobe Spark to present information in interesting and engaging ways. They will then be creating a 'best' piece by researching the Solar System and using their new skills to present their knowledge creatively.

Other subjects ...

In maths, we will be continuing to build on our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages for the first few weeks before moving on to some shape and space work. Please keep up the times table practise – these are very important for efficient work with fractions!

In RE, children will continue their unit on Hinduism.

In music, they are now completing a *Charanga* unit based around 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air'.

PE will continue to follow the 'Real PE' scheme. This term we will also be following 'Real Gym' to develop gymnastics skills on the floor and apparatus. Our Wednesday PE lesson can only take place outside so please ensure children have appropriate kit to match the weather!

Children's creativity skills will also be put to the test when designing and making their remembrance rocks and Christmas decorations.

Helping your child at home

Spellings will continue to be tested on a Monday with 5 spellings being written down and others practised orally in our 'Spelling Bee' – new word lists for this term have been sent home earlier this week and they are also available on the Class 5 page of the school website. Please note: the higher rounds of the spelling bee include words chosen at random from the Y5/6 list so these are important to practise too!

Times tables will continue to be tested regularly – children are doing brilliantly so far; please keep encouraging them to over-learn each times-table so recall gets faster.

Reading journals are to be handed in on Monday mornings; these should be filled in with any reading undertaken at home - this should be for **at least 20 minutes, 5 times or more per week**.

All children, whatever their reading ability, still benefit from reading aloud to someone at home regularly – this counts as a reading session even if you take it in turns to read pages.

Maths and literacy homework will continue to be set on alternate weeks to Learning Logs. Homework is always due in by Wednesday at the latest. I have been really impressed by children's efforts with homework so far 😊.

Class 5 information ...

- Thursday 11th November – Remembrance at the village war memorial.
- Tuesday 16th November – wear odd socks in support of Anti-Bullying Week 2021.
- Monday 16th – Friday 20th November – Anti-Bullying Week (whole school assembly and PHSE lesson on this theme).
- Wednesday 8th December – Class 5's trip to the Space Centre, Leicester.