

Class 5

The Bliss Charity School



Term 2



Dear families,

I hope you all had a good half-term break, despite the stormy weather, and children had a chance to re-charge their batteries. Last term was a busy one, full of wonderful writing and topic work, and this term promises to be busier still as we begin our new topic. Please keep up the great work with reading – 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!

It was launched by children 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. Hopefully, their science work will be complemented by a trip to the Space Centre later in the topic – I am working on whether it is possible to rearrange the visit should the new Covid measures be relaxed before Christmas.

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 U.S.A. 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 space image crafted 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 Sparks 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 practice – these are very important for efficient work with fractions!

In RE, children will continue their 'Stories of Faith' unit in which they are comparing stories shared by Muslims, Christians and Jews.

PE will continue to follow the 'Real PE' scheme with our focus this term being on health and fitness. PE lessons can only take place outside at the moment so please ensure children have appropriate kit to match the weather!

Children's creativity skills will also be put to the test when making the egg-box poppies for remembrance and decorations for our fabulous outdoor Christmas tree.

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 already 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 practise. Issue 3 (23/10/20) of the whole school newsletter had lots of suggestions about how this could be done.

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 ...

- Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance observance in class
- Monday 16th November – Wear odd socks in support of Anti-Bullying Week 2020.
- Monday 16th – Friday 20th November – Anti-Bullying Week (children will take part in a class assembly and a PHSE lesson during the week on this theme)
- Wednesday 16th December – Science Day in Class 5
- Thursday 17th December – Big Maths

TBC – Trip to the National Space Centre

As we are unable to hold parent shares in school at the moment, we will shortly be posting a link to our Term 1 topic video so you can share the learning children have done in class remotely.