



Year 5 – Spring Term 1

What will the children be learning?

For the first half of the spring term, much of our work will follow the theme of voyages and adventures. We'll be heading out into space in science to explore the celestial bodies in our local solar system. We'll also look at the relationship between the Earth and the Moon and why we have day and night as well as tides and time zones. In computing we'll learn about the Mars rovers and how they send information back to Earth from so far away. Then in Art, we'll look at retro-futuristic space imagery as well as printing techniques. In geography our topic will be oceans and why they are so important to the planet. This will include a study of the Great Barrier Reef and also what needs to be done to keep our oceans healthy and clean. Now our ukulele lessons with Mr Johnson have finished, in music we'll look at musical notation in more detail and how this affects the pitch and length of notes. In PSHE we'll discuss how we keep safe in a variety of contexts and our topic for RE is 'love'. Our indoor PE will be gymnastics and outside we'll be brushing up our football skills on the field, weather permitting.

English

Our English work this half term will expand on the topics from our curriculum. We'll look at the 1969 moon landing and write a newspaper report to cover the main events, exploring the pioneering journey that the crew of Apollo 11 undertook. We'll also look at an Earth-bound voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to connect with geography and think about whether Christopher Columbus really did 'discover' America in 1492. Both of these pieces of work will then tie in with our debate topic for the term – whether we should be branching out and exploring other worlds when we should be looking after our own.

Our class novel for this half term will also carry a space theme. Back in September we started the year by writing a continuation of the first chapter of Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce, in which schoolboy Liam unexpectedly ends up orbiting the Earth on an out-of-control space ship. This term we'll continue reading the story.

Maths

In maths for the first half of the spring term we'll look at a wide range of topics. Once we've completed our work on fractions by adding and subtracting them, we'll move onto various aspects of time. For this, all children by Year 5 should be able to tell the time on an analogue clock, so brushing up on that at home will be essential for those still uncertain. We'll also look at timetables for buses and trains and how to interpret them.

After this we'll turn our attention to mass and capacity and how to convert between units, such as millimetres, centimetres and metres.

How to help at home

Our homework routine runs from Monday to Monday as usual. New homework booklets will go home in the first week of the term. The regular homework tasks are as follows:

Reading: Regular independent reading (four times a week for a house point, five times for two). It would be especially great if you could listen to our child read to you, or a sibling, and ask questions about the text to check their understanding. We have Reading Masters booklets that will help with this – just ask if you've mislaid the one given in Year 3.

Spelling: Regular practice either using the sheet in the homework booklet or Spelling Shed. Two house points for five or more sessions a week.

Maths: Weekly maths challenge in the maths homework booklet and regular practise on TT Rockstars to develop or secure tables knowledge. Two house points for engaging in both tasks.

Please photograph the homework booklets to show engagement and upload to Google classroom. The websites and passwords needed for all of this are in your Dojo message thread, sent in September. Please also don't forget our Sora eLibrary, which contains thousands of age-appropriate books. Information for accessing this is in the same password document in your Dojo message thread.

Other information

PE: Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday. This half term our topics will be gymnastics on Mondays indoors, and football on Wednesdays outdoors on the field. It helps us hugely if on PE days ear rings aren't worn so we don't have to worry about taking them out, and long hair is tied back. These are both statutory safety requirements for school PE lessons.

Library: The school library is open every morning break time for children to change books as and when they need to. Children still learning to read also have access to our separate book band library and our allotted time there is on Wednesday mornings. Children on book bands are encouraged to change books weekly, keeping one in school for afternoon reading and one at home for home use.