

Water Birds (Years 5 and 6)

Autumn Term 2 2018



We are going to journey through space, the final frontier until we reach the Sun – that magnificent, blazing star at the centre of our solar system.

There will be an opportunity to learn about the eight planets – Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. We're going to take a look at the moon (the celestial body which orbits Earth) and find out more about Space Exploration.

Exploring space is probably the greatest adventure that humankind has ever undertaken. It's certain to be the most exciting project we've studied so far this year.

Maths and Literacy Foci:

Literacy: In literacy this half term we will begin by looking at the structure of non-fiction texts such as non-chronological reports. Using a range of non-fiction books, we will research what life is like on the Moon and other planets before writing our own reports for a Dorling Kindersley Encyclopedia.

The Water birds will also be studying *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. This humorous adventure is seen through the eyes of twelve-year-old Liam Digby a 'gifted and talented' child whose physical appearance ages him beyond his years. This text will support us to consider the emotional responses of the characters in the text. The narrative structure is carefully crafted to be thought-provoking offering young readers a good model for their own persuasive writing, debating and well written arguments.

Finally, before Christmas we will have an opportunity to write some of our own poetry linked to Space.

We will continue to focus on developing our reading skills this term and really hope families will support the children further by encouraging their children to read for 15 minutes 5 times

per week. This can be recorded down in the children's planners which will be signed in school on a Friday.

Year 5 will be looking at articles from the children's newspaper 'First News' and work daily on their comprehension skills.

Year 6 will continue to work in small reading groups with an adult and this time we will start to consider how to answer questions which involve inference.

Maths: This half term we will be focusing on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.

Year 5 will be introduced to the links between these three areas for the first time, while Year 6 will develop confidence applying their knowledge to problem solving.

In cross-curricular links we will be looking at Statistics relating to Space and learning how to measure accurately and extract data from a variety of graphs and tables.

We will be placing a lot of emphasis on our arithmetic methods, particularly adding, subtraction, multiplying, dividing and calculating with fractions.

For children in Year 6 we will be analysing gaps in their understanding and working on these areas specifically. Particularly: Place value, working with larger numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages and reasoning about shape and space.

Curriculum Foci

Science: Science will be our key focus this term as we learn to:

- describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system
- describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth
- describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies
- use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night, and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

History: We will be learning about the 1960s Space Race and significant individuals like Isaac Newton.

DT: We will be designing our own Space Buggies and learning techniques to cut the chaise and axle for the framework.

Computing: Online research and stop frame animation recording our poetry compositions.

Art: Inspired by Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' we will be developing our knowledge of perspective, shading and composition before embarking on our own Moon pictures.

Music: On a Thursday we will continue to develop our musical skills with the music service using African Drums.

PSHE: We'll be considering how we get on with each other and what to do when we fall out.

Important Dates for your diary

Monday 12th November – Remembrance Day Service, 9am on the playground

12th November – 14th November House Poetry Competition – Don't forget to practice your poem off by heart.

Wednesday 14th November – Parent's Open Morning

16th November – Year 6 Poetry Workshops

15th to 20th November – Book Fair

Wednesday 21st November – Trip to the National Space Centre in Leicestershire (packed lunch required)

Friday 23rd November – Intu Film Festival trip to Cineworld to see Sherlock Gnomes

1st December – Christmas Fair

5th December – Year 6 Christmas Cracked

14th December – Candlelit Carols at St. Mary's Church

Home Learning Tasks

Maths and Literacy: This will be set weekly.

Homework will be handed out on a **Thursday** and returned to school the following **Tuesday**.

Reading: All children will be expected to read five times per week and record those pages read in their planner.

Spelling: Will be set weekly - children will be given an activity to complete based on the weekly spellings. **Spelling tests will take place on Tuesdays.**

We would ask that parents and carers sign their child's planner once a week ready for it to be handed in on a Friday.