

## **Welcome to the spring term, year five!**

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Welcome to the spring term!



### **Topic**

**Our topic is “Stargazers”**



Journey through space, the final frontier...  
Navigate beyond the Sun: the magnificent,  
blazing star at the centre of our Solar System!

Investigate the eight planets – Mercury,  
Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus,  
and Neptune. Take a look at the Moon, a  
celestial body that orbits the Earth.

Programme a ‘rover’ to traverse a lunar  
landscape and work scientifically to  
investigate gravity, and what happens when  
there is none! Compare the time of day at  
different places on the Earth and use a GPS

satellite navigate system to track hidden treasure! Get in a spin making simple models of the Solar System and listen to the haunting sounds of space-themed songs.

Then it’s three, two one... BLAST OFF! Build and launch a rocket for an important test mission.

Exploring space is probably the greatest adventure that humankind has ever undertaken. Are we alone or are there other life forms out there?!

### **PE**

Children will be having PE on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings; this half term we are learning basketball. Please ensure that your child brings a full PE kit to school each week, consisting of black or red shorts, white t-shirt and plimsolls or trainers. In cold weather, children can wear jogging bottoms and jumpers (preferably in black). Please can children remove earrings for PE sessions, or provide plasters or tape along with a permission slip (from the school office) if they cannot be removed.

### **British Values, RE and PSHE**

British Values is something that we address every day in school life and we will continue to do so. We will continue to teach PSHE weekly, addressing a range of issues. We are focussing a lot on social stories, personal health and well-being, emotional health and healthy relationships. Our topic in RE is ‘Beliefs and Questions: Islam’.

## Homework

Please can children bring their reading records and spelling records into school every Friday. On a Friday, home reading will be stamped, and new spellings will be glued into their spelling records. There are always spare copies of spellings, guided reading learning objectives and homework in the 'homework tray' in the classroom.

Children are encouraged to read at home daily. We will continue to collect stamps and give out certificates for this. Reading can be anything from their school reading book to a recipe, shopping list or section of a magazine!

Spellings will be given out to children every Friday and tested on the same day the following week. The age-related National Curriculum spellings are in the back of their spelling books (which they will bring home). Children are expected to continue to practise the spellings that they got incorrect in their test. Again, lots of reading (from Bug Club to recipe books or shopping lists) will help to improve spellings.

Maths homework will be given out every Friday, to be returned on the following Wednesday. Also, it would be extremely beneficial to practise times tables as often as possible. There are lots of free, online games available. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables> some of the games here are tablet friendly.

Some home learning ideas for our topic are (try and do at least one, or more if you'd like!):

- Keep a Moon diary over the course of a lunar month. Draw the shape of the Moon each night, finding out and recording the correct term for each lunar phase.
- Use non-fiction books, astronomy magazines and the web to find and record amazing facts about space. Create a scrapbook using facts, drawings and printed images.
- Visit your local library and search for space-themed books. These could be non-fiction, novels or poetry books. Write a review of your favourite one.
- Search the night sky and try to identify the Moon, stars or even some of the other planets in the Solar System such as Venus or Mars. Use binoculars or a telescope, if you have one. There is also an app called SkyView Lite which will show you all of the constellations!
- Write a story about what happens next after an alien spaceship has crash-landed in your back garden.
- Find out about astronauts who have visited the moon (there are 24 of them).
- Write a letter of application to the UK Space Agency to apply to become an astronaut. What skills and qualities would you need to have?
- Design and create an astronaut space helmet or alien headwear using junk materials.
- Make a 3D model of the Solar System, which displays all the planets in order.

## Uniform

Please remember to send your child to school in full school uniform each day; this includes appropriate footwear.

**Key dates**

Film Night	24 <sup>th</sup> January
Well-being week	4 <sup>th</sup> February
Science day (healthy eating)	5 <sup>th</sup> February
Valentine's Disco	14 <sup>th</sup> February
Break up for half-term	15 <sup>th</sup> February
Y5 trip to Theatre Royal	28 <sup>th</sup> February

Kind regards,

Miss Hodgkin and Mrs Scrimshaw