

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back to a new school year, I hope you all had a lovely summer and a nice break. The children have already had an exciting start back to school, with a brilliant trip to Beam House. The children had an amazing time and were a credit to you all!

Our first topic of the year is '**Space.**' This topic is a **Science** based topic and it will cover many of the science objectives needing to be covered in year 5 & 6. This is always a very interesting and exciting topic which I'm sure the children will enjoy. During this topic we will be learning about each of the different planets, learning about the moon and the different moon phases that we see, learning about how we get day and night and even working out how old we would be if we lived on each of the other planets. During this topic there will be lots of opportunity for **Art** projects; they will be turning themselves into aliens and also looking at the artwork of Peter Thorpe and attempting to create our own space-themed art.

In **Literacy**, we will start off the year by writing all about our trip to PGL. The children will be writing these in a chronological order, using lots of adjectives and adverbs to add detail and description. After this we will be reading the book 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. This book is about a boy that is abnormally tall and ends up getting into lots of funny situations. The majority of the book is based on space and it briefly discusses the first moon landing, discusses gravity and lots of other space-themed knowledge. The children will be writing lots of different short stories based on this book and it will also provide lots of opportunities to have some in depth discussions and debates.

In **SPaG**, we are going to be going over all of the basics that make up the SPaG curriculum. They will be learning about nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs and being able to locate these as well as use them in their writing. The children will also be learning lots of very new terms such as prepositions, subordinate clauses, modal verbs and a range of different punctuation marks. Although lots of these sound scary and difficult, each year the children have enjoyed learning these new concepts and have found it to be much less scary than they originally thought!

In **Maths** we will start off looking at place value and understanding the number system. Ensuring children have a secure understanding of the value of each digit in a number and being able to read and write numbers past a million, is vital before moving onto any other areas. During this topic we will also work on negative numbers, rounding and problem solving. After this short topic, the class will be working on their calculation skills. They will be recapping their knowledge of lots of different mental and written methods, whilst trying to gain speed and consistency. We will also be working on their times tables throughout the year. Children that know their times tables off by heart find the rest of their maths so much easier, so this is something that is really important to their learning.

In **Computing** we will be using Google Earth to look at different places around the world, focussing on countries that are located along the equator and within the Arctic Circle. By using Google Earth, we will also be able to see images of what Earth looks like from space. Finally we will be learning about the moon landing, during this time the children will be able to try and recreate the moonwalk using the green screen.

In other subjects, we will be having another 'faith week' for **RE**. This was very successful last year, the children really got involved and enjoyed completing a range of activities. **Design & Technology** will link with our topic of Space. The children will build their very own planet mobile, they will have to think about the sizes of each of planet, the colour of each planet and the location of them compared to the sun.

The majority of the children's **music** this term will be covered within our Christmas production at the end of the term. This is always a very exciting time of year and the children will spend lots of time practising the singing of songs during rehearsals and performances. More details about the Christmas production will come out during the Autumn Term.

PE will continue to be taught by Mrs Wilson every day except Fridays. The children will need their PE kits and trainers in for this each day. This year, Class 3 are very lucky to be able to participate in a **Forest School** every Monday afternoon. This means they will need their forest school kits in every Monday. If children do not have their kit in school unfortunately they will not be able to participate in the lesson.

This year the children will be sent home a small amount of **homework** each week. In class 3 this will not start straight away as I want to give a little bit of time for children settle in. However, continuing to listen to them read, helping them practise spellings and helping them to learn their times tables really does help their learning within school, so this is a really good use of their time!

If at any time during the term you have any concerns regarding your child or anything you would like to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Sussex