

STAR GAZERS

YEAR 5

SPRING 1



As part of all of our topics we take part in a memorable experience to excite the children and make them want to find out more. This term our **memorable experience** is a visit from **The Star Lab**. This is a star dome where the children will experience the wonders of the night sky and the constellations.

Here is an outline of the subjects we are covering this term

### English

We will be reading the book Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce. Using this book, and as part of the Power of Reading project, we will be writing in character, persuasive arguments, visitor's leaflets, letters and summaries. We will also have the opportunity to develop our writing skills throughout this exciting project by writing to NASA and the British Space agency, we're hoping for a reply!

### Maths

This half term we will be focusing on fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also continue to use addition and subtraction to solve problems and develop our knowledge of shape including classifying Polygons and finding area and perimeter.

Please help your child to learn all of the multiplication tables by heart and understand the corresponding division facts, including squared numbers and square roots.

### Science

**Earth and Beyond** - We will be finding out about the solar system, planets, rotations of the Earth and Moon and time zones around the world. We will also investigate how the sun helps us to measure time and the position of the sun at different times of the year.

## History

We will be delving back in time to the space race between America and USSR in the 1950s and 1960s. We will be learning about the first man on the Moon and first man in space and other astronauts that have explored space.

## Art and Design

In art we will be using chalks to make constellations and the night sky.

We will be linking ICT and Literacy with our art work to create story boards.

## Computing

All areas of learning will be enhanced using computing as children have regularly access to iPads to learn new skills and find out about areas of their topic.

Using Lego Education and EV3s will develop our programming and engineering skills, linking this our topic of Space.

## Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

We will focus on helping us decide what is right and wrong? We will concentrating on listening to the opinions of others and respecting one another's beliefs. We will be discussing morality and linking this to Religious Education. We will consider other cultures and religions and their moral codes.

## Religious Education

The key question the children will be considering in RE this half term is: - **Why does the Chinese New Year season last for 15 days and how does the season end?**

We will be looking at all aspects of this festival and enjoying workshop activities to celebrate Chines New Year.

## Physical Education

The children will take part in team games including hockey and invasion games.

**All children will need a pair of trainers or plimsolls in school to wear during out door PE.**

## Music

**Gustav Holst the Planet suite** will be our influence for Music this half term. We will be looking at the different instruments used to simulate the different planets and music can influence mood. We will also compose our own music for a planet in the Solar System.

You can support your child by helping them to learn all the times tables and listening to them read regularly and record it in their reading record book.

## HOMework IDEAS!

- 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.
- Visit your local library and search for space-themed books. These could be non-fiction, novels or poetry books.
- Imagine... an alien space ship has crashed landed in your back garden. Write your own story about what happens next. You may want to borrow ideas from space stories or films you know well. Remember to use powerful vocabulary to bring your story (and your alien) to life!
- So far, 24 astronauts have visited the Moon. Find out their names, download pictures and record interesting facts about them
- Write a letter of application to the UK Space Agency to become an astronaut. What personal qualities or skills would you need to carry out this role?
- Write a film review of a space-themed film that you have watched with your family. Some great films to choose might be 'Wall-E' (U), 'ET' (U), 'Star Wars' (PG) or 'Apollo 13' (PG). How many 'stars' would you award your film?
- Design and create your own astronaut space helmet or alien headwear using junk materials. Bring it to school and take part in a space-inspired fashion parade!
- Teach your family the order of the planets in the solar system using your mnemonic. Then test them... Have they remembered correctly?
- 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 possible. You might also be able to use an app which will help you to locate the position of the stars. Remember – never look directly at the Sun with your naked eye or through a telescope, binoculars or camera: doing so could easily damage your eyesight