



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Class Cuckoo Topic Letter January 2026

Earth & Space



Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. I am very much looking forward to starting 2026 with the children as we begin our exciting new topic, Earth and Space.

Topic

Our topic this term is science-based and will take the children on an exciting journey beyond Earth as we explore space and astronomy. We will learn about the incredible discoveries and inventions of pioneering astronomers and explore the history and development of our solar system. Children will develop their understanding of the planets, including Earth and its Moon, as well as comets and asteroids that orbit the Sun. They will explore how these celestial bodies move and interact within our solar system. We will discover how to become amateur astronomers by observing the night sky, with opportunities to take part in activities at home such as 'Star Count'.

English

Our English work this term is closely linked to our space topic. The children will write imaginative stories set in imaginary worlds, inspired by space travel and encounters with alien life. We will also write non-chronological reports to share factual information about the planets in our solar system. As part of our learning about the history of space exploration, we will study the life and achievements of mathematician Katherine Johnson, using her inspiring story as the basis for biography writing. The children will also take part in class discussions, forming and justifying opinions about the possibility of life on other planets. Spelling tests will continue to take place on a Thursday. Please encourage your child to practice regularly at home.

Reading

Reading remains central to all learning, and I strongly encourage children to read regularly at home. Please ensure reading journals are kept up to date with a range of thoughtful entries. We will continue to work through the reading challenges at school.

Maths

At the start of the term, we will finish off our unit on multiplication and division, using formal written methods. Regular practice of times tables and division facts up to 12×12 is essential to support rapid recall. After this, we will move on to fractions and decimals, including equivalent fractions, converting improper fractions to mixed numbers, adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions, and ordering and comparing them. Year 5 children will also develop their understanding of percentages. As always, we will apply our knowledge to problem-solving and reasoning

activities. Children will continue to have access to Times Tables Rock Stars and Mathematics for weekly home practice.

Art & Design Technology

In Design Technology, children will design, make and evaluate a moving Mars rover. In Art, we will explore the use of charcoal and chalk to experiment with light and dark, taking inspiration from the artist Peter Thorpe to create abstract, space-themed artwork.

PE

PE lessons will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The children will be focusing on football and hockey this term. As most lessons will be outdoors and the weather is cooler, please ensure your child has a full tracksuit.

RE

In the first half of the term, we will explore the question: Could Jesus heal people? In the second half of the Spring Term, our focus will move to the key events of Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the crucifixion on Good Friday and the resurrection, celebrated on Easter Day.

Computing

In Computing this term, children will develop their understanding of how the internet works. In programming, children will build on their coding skills by exploring repetition in games. They will develop and modify programs that include two or more loops running at the same time.

PSHE

This term in PSHE, our learning will focus on Dreams and Goals. Children will explore their own aspirations and consider how to set realistic goals. We will also study Healthy Me, where children will learn about ways to keep themselves safe, both physically and emotionally.

Let's Present

Each Wednesday, children will have the opportunity to present to the class. This term, presentations will take us on a journey through space, with children choosing something in the Solar System to research. Presentations should last approximately five minutes and will be followed by a question-and-answer session. If your child wishes to use a PowerPoint presentation, please email it to the Class C email address below.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email at classc@danburypark.essex.sch.uk

For urgent messages on the day, please send a note into school or contact the office, who will pass the message on to me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Miss Foscett

