



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Class Cuckoo Topic Letter January 2024

Earth & Space

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. We start 2024 with our topic on Earth and Space. I have outlined below more detail of our curriculum for this term as well as some ideas as to how you can help to support your child at home.

Topic

Our topic this term is science based and will take us on a journey out of this world to discover the wonders of space and astronomy. We will marvel at the fascinating discoveries and inventions of pioneering astronomers, finding out about the history of our solar system. Through this topic we will discover more about the planets, comets and asteroids that orbit the Sun and make up our solar system, including a planetarium experience at the Royal Observatory Greenwich. We will be reading about the varying theories on the origins of the solar system and find out how to become an amateur astronomer and view it through our own eyes. There are many activities that you can complete at home, including looking up at the sky at night, taking part in 'Star Count'.

English

Our writing this term follows our topic on the theme of space. We will write imaginary world stories based on space travel including alien life characters that we may encounter! We will be writing non-chronological reports, sharing our new found knowledge of the planets in our solar system. Through our study of the history of space travel, we discover the work of mathematician Katherine Johnson. Her inspirational story will form the basis of our biography writing. The children will use what they have learnt to form opinions for our class discussion on the possibility of life on other planets, providing evidence for or against. Spelling tests will continue to be weekly and I would ask you to encourage your child to explore the spelling patterns, rules and exceptions beyond the words set, as well as using dictionaries to look up meanings of new vocabulary.

Reading

Reading underpins all learning so I encourage the children to continue to read regularly, and keep their reading journal up to date with all books read as well as a variety of entries. Please see the suggested ideas sheet in the front of the journals for further ideas. We are continuing our journey through the reading challenges and when children are ready for the next reading challenge, they may request a reading conference.

Maths

In Mathematics for the first part of the new term our emphasis will be on multiplication and division using formal written methods up to 4 digits by 2 digits, and division with remainders. Please do encourage your child spend time each week learning and practising their times table and division facts to 12 x 12 for rapid recall. We will then move on to the topic of fractions. Looking at equivalent fractions, improper to mixed number fractions, adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions as well as ordering and comparing fractions.

Year 5 will gain an understanding of percentages as decimals and fractions, as well as solving problems and reasoning with fractions.

As a school we have continued our subscription to 'Times Tables Rockstars' and 'Mathletics' which children can use at home each week.

Art & Design Technology

This term we will be designing, making and evaluating a moving Mars rover. We will be exploring charcoal and chalk as a media in our exploration of light and dark. We will take inspiration from the artist Peter Thorpe to create our own abstract space inspired paintings.

PE

Our PE sessions this term will be on Thursdays and Fridays. We will be playing team games and focusing on awareness for positional play when attacking and defending, beginning with hockey. As the weather is cooler, please ensure your child has a tracksuit in their PE bag at school as our sessions will be outdoors.

RE

Our religious education topic begins this term with a study of Sikhism. We will explore the importance of the Khalsa and the 5 K's. We will also discover the importance of equality in Sikhism.

In the second half of the spring term, we focus on Christianity and the events recalled during Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, the crucifixion, commemorated on Good Friday and by the fact that the cross is the central symbol of Christianity and the resurrection, celebrated on Easter Day.

Computing

In our computing lessons will be focusing on computer science, using Scratch to teach the wider programming skills of solving problems, testing, debugging, improving and evaluating. We will design and write programs that accomplish specific goals.

Music & French

We are fortunate to have specialist teachers with Mrs Long and Madame Dekhar teaching the class music and French respectively every Wednesday.

PSHE

Our theme for Spring Term is 'Living in the Wider World'. We will look at what it means to belong to a community and having shared responsibilities. In our learning on money and work we will explore decisions people make about spending money, using and keeping money safe.

Let's Present

Each Wednesday the children will have the opportunity to present to the class. This term our presentations will take us on a journey around the world. Children can choose any country of their choice to research and present to the class. Presentations should last around 5 minutes, followed by a Q&A session from the class. If children wish to use a PowerPoint file, please send via the Class C email below.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, no matter how small, please do get in touch via email classc@danburypark.essex.sch.uk If you have an urgent message for the day, please do send in a note or telephone the office, who can pass on the details to me.

Thank you in advance for your continued support,

C Evans

Mrs Evans