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Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

We hope everyone had a lovely half term; we are very excited about beginning a new term after such a successful Term 1! We are very proud of all of the hard work the children are putting in; they have made a tremendous start in Year 5!

Our focus this term is on Earth and Space. We will be exploring this theme in both science and humanities. The enquiry question that ties all our learning together this term is 'Is space travel important, or should we focus on our own planet instead?' To complement this topic further, our class text is space-themed, and our art this term is also space-themed.

In English, we will be focussing on persuasive arguments, and considering the language and style of powerful speeches. To complement our enquiry question, we will begin by analysing some powerful speeches from iconic figures such as President Kennedy, who challenged and inspired the USA to put a human on the moon within a decade and Prince William and Greta Thunberg, who are demanding that the world acts to halt climate change before it's too late. We will be paying particular attention to the techniques these speakers use to persuade, and looking to see what tips we can 'steal' from them for our own writing and performances. We will then go on to write our own speeches about familiar topics that are important to us, and perform them. In guided reading, we are reading George's Secret Key to the Universe and practising our retrieval and inference skills while learning more detailed information about our solar system and space exploration. We have enough copies of this text for at least one between two. If your child has their own copy of this book at home, they are welcome to bring it into school and have their own personal copy – please ensure all books brought in are named.

In Maths, our focus will continue to be upon number, building on from our work on place value in term 1 by moving on to practise our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. Our mastery approach enables the children to participate in whole-class activities and discussions about different aspects of these topics before completing tasks independently in their Power Maths textbooks to consolidate their knowledge. We continue to provide children with opportunities to practise their arithmetic and times tables skills through our Early Morning Maths sessions which happen three mornings a week at the start of the school day. Please can you continue to support your child as much as possible with practising their times tables outside of school, which could be achieved through using their TT Rockstars accounts, and by also completing their MyMaths homework weekly. Please see one of us if you require help accessing these.

In history, to complement our enquiry question, we will be considering different viewpoints on this topic from influential speakers like Greta Thunberg, President Kennedy and Prince William.

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We will also be studying five significant events in space exploration, and also learning about the 'Moon Shot' project in the 1960s, launched by Kennedy, and the 'Earth Shot' project which was launched two years ago by the Royal Foundation. We will be building our understanding of using and making timelines and studying and evaluation primary and secondary sources.

In Science, we will be investigating Earth and Space by investigating and building on our understanding of the relationship between the movements of Earth relative to the sun, the moon relative to Earth, and the position and size of Earth in the solar system relative to other planets. We will also be learning about the properties of the other planets in our solar system, and studying the lunar cycle of our moon.

In Art, we will be practising our watercolour painting skills by studying the planets' appearance and painting our own accurate representations. We will be making our own orreries to show these representations and using our measuring skills to ensure we produce accurately scaled models. We will be using cereal boxes to make our final pieces, and would be grateful for any cereal boxes that can be donated for this project.

PE continues to take place on Tuesdays (yoga) and Wednesdays (outdoors) this term. Please ensure that your child has warm sports clothes that comply with our PE uniform requirements. Children should continue to arrive in school wearing PE kits on their timetabled PE days. We are unable to allow the children to wear any jewellery during PE, so if your child has pierced ears, please can they either not wear their earrings to school, or be able to take them out. It would be useful if they could have a small pot or bag to keep these in to ensure they do not get lost. Newly pierced ears can be taped at home on these days. If your child is unable to do PE for any reason, please inform us in writing or tell us on the gate.

In music, we will be listening carefully to a range of songs from the Rock genre. Children will learn to identify the structure of each piece of music, including verse and chorus, to identify the instruments and voices used, and find the pulse in a range of ways while listening.

Children will use drums and body percussion to keep a pulse and improvise simple rhythms. They will learn to sing a song in unison and to read simple musical notation.

Other areas of the curriculum include PSHE (where we will be focusing on resilience in order to build on our successes), Computing (which will this term be embedded across the curriculum), French (focusing on learning vocabulary about seasonal celebrations), and RE (learning about Islam).

Homework will continue to be set on Fridays to be completed by the following Wednesday. It will usually be an online MyMaths task and spelling practice on Seesaw. topic or English related activity set on Seesaw. Homework will be completed via SeeSaw/MyMaths unless otherwise stated.

We look forward to seeing you later in the term at our Christmas Fair and open class event, which will coincide with our art week, along with the other Christmas events we have planned at school.

With best wishes,

Mrs Hamilton and Ms Callow

Year 5 Class Teachers