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November 2025

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 great start this term!

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 and music 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 *Space Oddity* by Christopher Edge. The children are very engaged with the book so far. Every child will have a copy of the book to read between two; if you would like your child to have their own copy to refer to in school, do send one in, clearly named to ensure it does not get lost.

In Maths, our focus will continue to be upon number, building on from our work on place value in Term 1 by moving on from addition and subtraction to practise our multiplication and division skills. We will then be moving on to study fractions. 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 two 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. We will be building our understanding of using and making timelines and studying and evaluating 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. **To celebrate our learning, we will be having a Moon Day on (date tbc very soon) where we will be doing a series of activities to increase our knowledge and understanding of the moon. Children are welcome to wear anything moon-themed or silver on this day – or anything else space-inspired!**

We are to have a workshop with our STEM ambassador – Kerry Henderson this week, to complement this term's learning about space.

In Art, we will be practising our watercolour painting skills by studying the planets' appearances and painting our own accurate representations. We will also be using our watercolour painting skills to paint the various stages of the lunar cycle.

PE this term will be on Mondays (gymnastics) and Thursdays (Fitness). 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 studying Gustav Holst's "The Planets": listening and responding with art and music to how the composer imagined the characters of the different planets in our Solar System in music. We will also study the lyrics and music of David Bowie's song "Space Oddity". We will then become composers, using a range of percussion instruments to create our own planetary music. We will also be learning and practising Christmas songs in preparation for our Carols Around the Tree event in December!

Other areas of the curriculum include PSHE (where we will be focusing on resilience in order to build on our successes) and Computing which will focus on making audio recordings and setting them to images.

Homework will continue to be set on Fridays, usually to be completed by the following Wednesday. It will usually be an online MyMaths task, topic or English related activity set on Tapestry. Spelling practice on Tapestry will be set each Wednesday. Homework will be completed via Tapestry /MyMaths unless otherwise stated.

With best wishes,

Mrs Hamilton and Ms Callow

Year 5 Class Teachers