



## Welcome Back

Happy new year to you all! We hope that you have all had a restful break and enjoyed making memories with your family.

We are very excited to begin this half term, as it is one of our favourite topics – Space! The children always love learning all about the planets within our Solar System, famous astronauts as well as our fantastic trip to the National Space Centre, Leicester.

## R.E.

In our topic of Special People, we talk about the special people in our lives. We discuss the church community, and the various roles people have to help with Mass. We also look at the story of Jesus being Presented in the Temple. During our topic of Meals, we talk about special meals we have with our families, e.g. Christmas, Easter, birthdays, etc and why we have special meals. We recognise that the Eucharist is a special meal and talk about the significance of Holy Communion and how we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

## English

**Phonics and Early Reading:** In our Phonic sessions, Read, Write, Inc, we shall be learning sounds from Set 3, as well as revising Set 2. Please see our class Twitter page for regular video links of Virtual Classroom lessons on sounds, including spelling words with these sounds in them. These videos are designed for your child to watch, interact and learn from them independently once an adult has set it up for them. We assess children's reading each half term. This allows us to review groups regularly and move children around accordingly. Any additional reading or Phonic practice you can do at home will be great, to develop the fluency and confidence of your child's reading.

## Writing:

Literacy this half term begins with the story of The Way Back Home, which links to our Space topic. We teach all of our literacy units using Talk for Writing (Pie Corbett). The children will explore this tale using drama, sequencing and retelling of the story using actions. They will then change the setting and other features of the story to make it their own!

## Mathematics

This half term we will be looking at adding by counting on, number bonds to 10, where the children will be practicing a pair of numbers to make 10 and recall them quickly. We will also be adding to make 10 and 20, looking at number sentences with missing numbers as well as word problems. Children will be using number facts that they know to help them solve more complex number problems.

## Science

This half term we are learning all about space, which is always a popular topic amongst the children. We will be exploring the wonders of space, from the planets that make up our Solar System, to how we get day and night, as well as how shadows are formed. We will also be attending our fun trip to the National Space Centre.

## Geography

During our Geography topic we will be exploring weather patterns and how our seasons change throughout the year. We will be learning about how the length of days vary throughout the year and why this is. The children also have fun being weather reporters, performing their own weather shows and using the different symbols associated with the weather.

## Design Technology

This half term in Design Technology, we will be getting creative using clay! The children will be making and painting their own planets. They will also be discovering what the Mesopotamians technique of moulding and

carving was, called clay relief, then using this technique to create their own clay relief pieces.

## Reading

Children are expected to read for at least 10 minutes every day and the more often they read, the better! This includes reading to an adult. Children's reading should be recorded in their reading planner please. There are lots of others useful resources in their planner too, so please take some time to have a good look through. Children will have their books changed on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**. They are encouraged to read the same book three times to develop fluency, expression and comprehension, just like we do in class. Read, Write, Inc Books include lots of questions and activities to support reading at home. Of course, children should also be encouraged to read more widely too, reading books that

they have at home or from the library with an adult or independently. Class library books are changed every **Monday**.

## Computing

Children will be exploring a range of devices and technology during our unit of Moving a Robot, including BeeBots and screen turtles, as well as adding instructions to move an object using the laptops and iPads.

## PE

Please note that our PE days this half term are **Mondays** and **Fridays**. Children will be taking part in Dance (Mondays) and Dodgeball (Fridays) each week, delivered by our professional coaches.

## Morning Drop-off

We kindly ask that parents please do a quick drop-off in the morning, rather than wait with your child. This will help them with their independence. A member of staff will always be on duty on the playground during this time.

If you have any quick questions, please feel free to speak to either of us at the end of the school day, once all of the children have been dismissed. If, at that point, you feel you require a longer appointment, we can arrange a meeting via the school office (01773 822278). We are really looking forward to an exciting half term and a fun-filled year!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Acton and all the Year 1 team

Dates for your diaries		
06.01.25		Back to school
22.01.25	TBC	<b>SEA Movie Night</b>
29.01.25	TBC	<b>SEND Review Parent Meetings</b> Appointment invitations will be emailed to you via the School Cloud for you to choose your timeslot.
10.02.25	All day	<b>Trip to the National Space Centre, Leicester.</b> More details to follow.
13.02.25		Break up for half term
14.02.25	All day	INSET Day – school closed
W/C: 17.02.24 - 21.02.25		<b>HALF TERM</b>
24.02.25	All day	INSET Day – school closed
27.02.25	3pm	<b>Year 1 Class Assembly</b> We would love for you to join us in the hall at 3pm for this!