

Upper Key Stage 2

Spring Term 1 2024



Happy New Year! We do hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

This half term, our curriculum focus areas are geography and design and technology.

In geography, the children will recap the continents and oceans of the world, as well as learning where the UK is in relation to the rest of the world. They will be comparing the physical features of the Lake District and Milton Keynes using ordinance survey maps, as well as comparing their land use.

In design and technology, the children will be learning about electrical systems. Throughout the unit, they will develop their understanding of how motors are used in electrical products and work towards designing and making their own product.

Our science work will be developing the children's understanding of night and day, as well as revisiting the planets that make up our solar system. We will also be investigating forces including friction, air resistance, water resistance and gravity.

In English, we will be writing setting descriptions based on our previous learning about World War 2. The children will continue to secure the basics of accurate sentence construction whilst developing their use of a full range of punctuation for Key Stage 2 and ambitious vocabulary.

This term, we will continue with PE twice weekly in school with the children learning rugby and further developing their gymnastics skills.

Throughout the term, we will also be taking part in a range of computing, music, PSHE and French activities.

Here are some things you might want to do at home:

- Conduct your own research into the Space Race
- Research how space travel has developed over time and create a scrap book to help inspire your own creation this half term
- Take a trip to the Science Museum
- Research who Katherine Johnson was and her impact on space travel
- Design a new space suit for the astronauts, labelling what materials you are using and why. Can you find some materials around the house to create this with?
- Make a model of the solar system and try to depict the relative size and distance of the planets using your maths skills

### Reading at home

Please remember it is important to hear your child read at home or share stories with them. The homework policy is to read 5 times a week at home. Your child will bring home a coloured reading book but is also encouraged to read a book for their own enjoyment, for example an information book, a magazine or a poetry book.

### Core Texts

The core text we will be reading this half term is:

Holes by Louis Sachar - Stingrays

Wonder by R.J. Palacio - Sharks and Dolphins

### Homework

We will be continuing to set homework this half term in line with the homework policy:

- In Year 5 and 6, maths and English homework is set every Thursday and is due in the following Tuesday
- Children are expected to read a minimum of five times per week and this is to be recorded in their planners (Year 6) or reading records (Year 5)
- Children should access Times Tables Rock Stars for a minimum of 10 minutes daily. It is important that all children are able to recall their times table and division facts **randomly** and **at speed**

- Throughout the year, additional spelling, punctuation and grammar homework may also be set to support the learning taking place at school.
- Homework club is run every Thursday during lunch time if the children would prefer to complete this at school.

### **PE Days**

For PE days, children can come to school wearing the correct PE kit, considering the weather. Please ensure appropriate footwear is worn on these days and children have a refillable water bottle with them. The children will have PE on the following days:

**Stingrays: Tuesday and Wednesday**

**Sharks: Tuesday and Wednesday**

**Dolphins: Wednesday and Thursday**

### **The teachers in Upper Key Stage 2 are:**

Mrs Briers - Stingrays' class teacher and UKS2 leader

Miss Tucker - Dolphins' class teacher

Mrs Lockley - Sharks' class teacher

### **The adults supporting in Upper Key Stage 2 are:**

Miss Holman

Mrs Donald

Mrs Brown

Mr Marshall