



29th April 2022

Dear Year 5 Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our final term of the academic year! I hope that you all managed to relax during the Easter holidays and spend time with loved ones. We have a terrific topic this term and it is brilliant to see the pupils have been enthusiastic from the start.

The topic we are studying this term is 'Exploration and Endeavour', where we are splitting the term between Antarctica and Space. It will provide the pupils a chance to learn about Ernest Shackleton's expedition to cross the Atlantic, what is required to survive as an explorer, the science found throughout space, the space race and future exploration.

In **English** we will be working on our writing skills to write stories, information texts, recounts, graphic novels and poems. These will be based on William Grill's *Shackleton's Journey*, Markus Motum's *Curiosity; the story of a Mars rover*, Frank Cottrell Boyce's *Cosmic* and Charlotte Guillan's *The Skies above my eyes*. We will also be referring to information texts on the topic throughout, as well as working on improving our grammar, punctuation, handwriting and spelling.

In **Maths** we will be working on fractions, decimals and percentages, properties of shapes, position and direction, converting units and finally volume. We will also be developing our problem-solving skills by completing investigations and challenges.

In **Science**, we will be learning about properties and changes of materials, understanding the movements of planets in the solar system, recognising how day and night works, recognising the movements of the moon in relation to the earth and discovering about the importance and range of forces occur, both on Earth and in space. We will also be learning about humans and the changes that we go through throughout our lives, including puberty.

In **Geography**, we will be using our topic to find out about our local area and being able to contrast it with Antarctica. From this, we will understand how to read a compass, use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods.

In **History**, the class will be using our key information from our other lessons to understand Shackleton's expedition and the 'heroic age of Antarctic Exploration.' In the second half term, we will find out about the space race of the twentieth century, what exploration is occurring today because of it and finally the changes in scientific advancement over time.

In **Art, Food Tech and DT**, we are going to be studying and presenting observational drawings of sundials, considering food in space and the difficulties they experience, design equipment for living and exploring in space (whilst considering changes in forces etc), building re entry capsules for our own egg-nauts to safely land on earth and finally looking at and designing clothing that could be used in the Atlantic/space.

In **Computing**, we will be using laptops and iPads to help us research our topic, complete coding activities and continue to understand the importance of online safety.

Year 3 will have **PE** sessions on **Tuesday** afternoons and **Thursday** mornings. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in the appropriate clothing and footwear in school for these lessons as they will not be changing before or after.

Through **Guided Reading**, pupils will be completing whole class reading lessons where we will be developing our comprehension and reading skills with a range of texts. The children will have opportunities to build upon their love of reading and will also be introduced to new and exciting genres and authors.

Home Learning

Every **Friday** your child will be given homework via Google Classroom. Each week will include 3 tasks, taking 20 minutes each (literacy, maths and topic). Please participate in their homework but allow the child to take the lead, assisting only if they need explaining/clarification or need something reading. If there is ever a need for clarification or you are having trouble accessing the content, please let me know and I will be more than happy to support.

Homework is due back the following Thursday.

Included in this homework will be spellings taken from the statutory Year 5 and 6 words to learn. We will be having a test every Friday on these words.

Every day the class will complete a particular times table challenge. Each week the times table changes with a test completed on the Friday. Please see google classroom to find which times tables we are working on that week.

Punctuality

Please remember that children should be entering the school at 8.55am each morning.

Important dates

4 th and 5 th May	Rescheduled parents evening meetings
16 th May	Class photograph
27 th May	Platinum tea celebrations

Visits and workshops this term:

Music performer workshop	4.5.22
Country dancing workshop	4.5.22
London Zoo	6.5.22
The CLC	To be confirmed
The Science Museum	To be confirmed

Kind regards

Mark Benjamin