



Akrotiri School

Y5

Mrs Ashford & Mrs Cotter
Pelican and Flamingo classes

Spring Term 2 - Information Guide 2020



Our learning this term - Our topic is 'Star Trekking across the Universe'

English – This half term we will focus on writing biographies based on famous figures from the world of space travel and exploration, including: Neil Armstrong and Katherine Johnson. We will also be extending our fictional writing from last term to look at the genre of science-fiction where we will be planning and writing a new chapter for our class novel, Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. We will continue to revise the key grammatical features for Year 5, including: modal verbs, relative embedded clauses and parenthesis.

Maths – This term we will be learning how to calculate the area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes. We will then be moving onto revising the formal written methods of short multiplication and division before introducing the children to long multiplication. Our final unit of this half term will focus on deepening children's understanding of fractions. We will look at how to identify and calculate equivalent fractions, convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers, identify fractions within number sequences and how to compare and order fractions which are greater or less than 1.

Science – We are continuing our learning about 'The Earth and beyond.' We will be: learning about time zones and comparing different times around the world at different points of the day, making simple models of the solar system, constructing simple shadow clocks and sundials and finding about the historical significance of Stonehenge.

Art and Design – Our art and design work will continue to focus on using a range of different media to recreate the famous painting 'Starry Night' by Vincent Van Gogh. This will involve working with pencil, paint and pastels.

ENRICHMENT and ENGAGEMENT

This half term we will be holding a stargazing evening which will allow the children to come back into school in the dark to undertake some fun activities. We are also continuing to participate in the DARE programme which is run by the SBA police and introduces children to different challenges they may face as they grow up with the aim being to provide them with the necessary skills to deal with the different challenges they may face. The children will complete this course and graduate from it at a celebration to which you will be invited. Dates for both these events will follow later this week.

READING:

Reading regularly at home is crucial to ensuring children's progress as readers. Our expectation of reading in Year 5 is that the children read at least three times a week at home, for a minimum of one hour in total. It is important that your child's reading book and reading diary come into school **every day**.

The children need to use their reading diary to keep a record of their reading. Each week there is a space for a 'reading reflection'. Guidance on completing this section has been given to the children. Reading diaries will be monitored weekly by Mrs Ashford and Mrs Cotter.

The reading diary also includes a section each week for any additional notes regarding homework, reminders for the children, as well as a space for parents to communicate messages to the teachers. If there ever is a message for us, please can you ask your child to hand the diary directly to either Mrs Ashford or Mrs Cotter, or preferably message us directly via Class Dojo.

Our focus text in class this half term is the novel 'Cosmic – it's one giant leap for boykind' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. We will be using the text to identify key grammar features, identify the features of mystery/suspense stories and to deepen the level of children's responses in relation to their understanding of the text.

HOMEWORK:

In addition to weekly spellings and reading, this term children will also receive a weekly maths and English task. They have been given new homework books that they can complete these in. Homework will go home on a Friday and we ask that homework books are back in school by Wednesday in order for us to discuss their work and set new tasks. Online and topic-based tasks will sometimes be given too. We will be encouraging all children to write the given homework into their reading records to help develop independence.

SPELLING:

A spelling list will be sent home each Monday and tested the following Monday. The whole school spelling improvement 'drive' continues and we ask that you support your child at home also (to promote the importance of accurate spelling.) We are focussing on Year 5 spellings from the National Curriculum but children may be set other spellings.

MENTAL MATHS FOCUS:

In class we are trying to focus on children's general arithmetic and wider problem-solving skills. Times tables will be a main focus as these permeate all maths topics. Please encourage children to continue to practice their times tables using Times Table Rockstars and their basic arithmetic skills.

USEFUL INFORMATION

PE: Every Monday (Flamingos) & Wednesday (Pelicans). Thursday (both classes).

Forest School: Flamingos - every Wednesday until half term. No Forest School for Pelicans this half term.

DARE: Every Tuesday for both classes.