

### Mrs Ashford & Mrs Cotter Pelican and Flamingo classes Spring Term 1 2020 - Information Guide



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

**English** – This half term we will focus on writing detailed setting descriptions based on fictional planets, in particular the fictional planet of Pandora. This will then extend into science-fiction writing where we will be planning and writing a new chapter for our class novel for this term, Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. We will be revising the key grammatical features that we learnt last term of modal verbs and relative embedded clauses as well as learning how to use commas, brackets and dashes to include parenthesis.

**Maths** – We will be completing our work on statistics, particularly focusing on how to read different types of timetables. We will then be working on developing children's understanding of multiplication and division where they will be learning how to multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000, how to recognise and use square and cube numbers and to use their knowledge of multiplication facts to identify multiples, factors, prime factors and prime numbers. We will also be learning how to calculate the area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes.

**Science** – Our 'Star Trekking across the Universe' topic will take us through an exciting unit called 'The Earth and beyond' where we will be learning about the planets within our solar system, why we have seasons, the different phases of the moon and the history of space travel.

**Art and Design** – Our art and design work will 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 later in the evening (when it is dark) to undertake some fun activities related to our topic. This term we are also participating in the DARE programme which is run by the SBA police and introduces children to challenges they may face as they grow up. The aim is to provide them with the necessary skills to deal with these situations and to explain to them their roles and responsibilities in relation to the topics covered.

#### **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 will be 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 also 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) and on a Thursday for both classes.

**Forest School:** Pelicans every Wednesday until half term. Flamingos will begin again after half term.

**DARE:** Every Tuesday for both classes.