



Owl class

"Stargazers"



Our topic this half term is called "Stargazers" and is set to be an exciting Science based project which will see us journeying through space, as we navigate beyond the Sun, the blazing star at the centre of the solar system! We will investigate the eight planets, and study the Moon as it orbits the Earth. On September 12th, we will visit Chichester Planetarium, and will be able to enjoy a presentation in their Stars Theatre followed by a workshop session.

Our Science learning will clearly focus upon Earth and Space, and forces, and we will design and carry out investigations, learning to work scientifically on different activities, for example to investigate gravity, to explore craters, and to investigate temperature and insulation.

In English, we will work with mnemonics, study Moon inspired myths and legends, newspaper reports and also create science fiction narratives. Children will be encouraged to read and make use of a range of material as they explore this topic. They will be encouraged to write for a particular purpose, developing their use of vocabulary for effect; to perform their compositions effectively; and to use spelling and punctuation accurately. To aid children's progress in English, it is key that they read regularly at home and discussion about their reading material is vital. Our author this half term is Philip Pullman, and I will read one of his novels "The Firework Maker's Daughter" to the class. Guided reading will take place each week, with each child reading alongside me in a focused group. Spellings will be given on Monday morning, and the words will be tested every Friday. As in previous years, Phonics will be taught across the school with the children in phased groups.

Our Mathematics work will begin with a heavy focus on place value, before we move on to using the four operations in calculations; to link with our topic, we will include some problem solving using measures. We will also work on multiples, factors and prime numbers. Practising times tables is vital and children will be tested on their times tables regularly.

In Geography, children will look at physical and human features of different places, as well as comparing time of day at a range of locations on the Earth. Historical individuals including Isaac Newton and Galileo Galilei, and the 1960's Space race will form our History learning.

We will look at space-inspired Music and lyrics, and if possible will link this to Art and Dance. On Tuesday afternoons Mrs Halfacree will cover my PPA, and during this time, will teach RE as well as PE. In addition to this, Mrs Pearson will teach Gymnastics on Wednesday afternoon.

Innovate week is scheduled for the week beginning 8th October and is sure to be great fun. Each child will need a 2l plastic bottle eg from lemonade or coke. Get ready for Blast Off!