

Year 5 Curriculum Letter - Spring Half Term 1 - 2023

Our theme for Spring 1 is:

Wonders of the Universe

Our main focuses are:

- To explore many of the great mysteries of the Universe.
- To discover how the Earth, Sun and Moon relate to each other and to the rest of the Solar System.
- To investigate why we have seasons and night and day.

Our theme will last for:

7 weeks



French

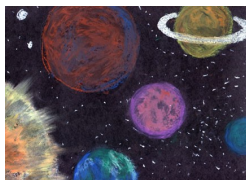
In French, we will be learning how to describe the planets, building up to short conversations about them which incorporates our knowledge from our Science lessons.

Computing

In our Computing sessions this half term, we will be exploring our solar system by creating our very own simulation of how planets move! This will develop our programming and coding skills, whilst allowing us to develop our knowledge of the incredible system of planets we are part of!

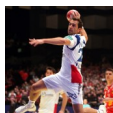
Art and Design Technology

We will be exploring how to use light and darkness to create space images through shadows. We will think about what shadows are, how they are made and the creative ways that we can create space and shadows as a final piece.



P.E.

This half-term we will continue to play a range of team and competitive games, exploring how to use tactics and strategies to refine and develop our skills. This half term we will be focussing on applying these skills to handball. Please ensure that your child's P.E. kit is appropriate for being outside.



English:

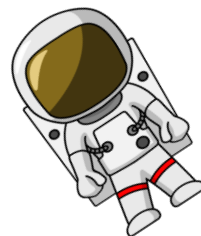
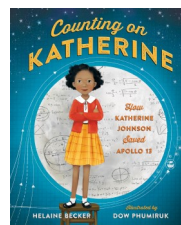
This half term, we will be reading 'Counting on Katherine' by Helaine Becker and will be creating pieces of writing based on this non-fiction text.

Throughout the unit, we will be looking at different types of non-fiction writing, such as writing a biography about Katherine Johnson and designing and creating a leaflet all about NASA.

We will also be writing our own persuasive speech and creating a radio advert that encourages women to pursue careers in Science and Mathematics!

We will complete our topic by looking at a range of space-themed poetry and writing and performing our own.

In our reading lessons, we will be building on our reading skills throughout the half-term, as we look at example texts to help us with our own understanding.



Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E)

What affects my mental wellbeing? We will be thinking about what positively and negatively affects our physical, mental and emotional health. We will also continue with our 'No Outsiders' scheme.

Behaviour and Safety

We will be looking at cyber-bullying and what impact posting online has to others. This half term's British Values focus is Tolerance of Others.

Key Questions for Discussion

We will be discussing some of the questions below and creating our own questions surrounding space related visuals.

What would you do if the Sun disappeared?

How would you feel going to a brand new place that you didn't know?

What are the things we could never see in the night-time sky?



Music

In Music, we will be looking at the song 'Make You Feel My Love.' We will look at the dimensions of music (pitch, rhythm, pitch) and using singing and instruments to improvise and compose with this song.

Mathematics:

We will be kicking off Maths. lessons in style this half term with Crystal Maze Maths. week! During this week, we will be putting our logic, number and shape skills to the test to solve different problems and will be taking part in Crystal Maze day where children will attempt to solve as many problems as possible linked to our topics!

This rest of half term will be all about fractions! Throughout the half term, we will be exploring the many aspects of fractions, decimals and percentages. This will include:

- Finding equivalences between fractions, as well as between fractions, decimals and percentages
- Compare and order fractions
- Recognise the percent symbol and understand what a percentage represents
- Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator or those with denominators that are multiples of the same number
- Multiply fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers
- Solve problems involving all of the above.



Times tables knowledge will be vitally important, as will the associated division facts. You could support your child at home by practising these skills regularly.

Science

This half term, we will be discovering the science behind the 'Wonders of the Universe'. We will be uncovering the mysteries of day and night and getting to grips with why we have seasons. The children in Year 5 will be investigating if the moon actually changes shape during the month and if the sun really does move across the sky. We will be delving into the solar system to learn the order of the planets and their comparative sizes and distances. Finally, we will be exploring how we know that the Sun, Earth and Moon are spherical.

Geography

We will be investigating the hemispheres of our own planet and what impact they have. Pupils will also refine their understanding of the equator and the tropics, as well as how we locate places around the world using longitude and latitude. We will link our Geography and Science skills by exploring why places around the world experience day and night at different times.



R.E.

In R.E. this half term we will continue to learn about Christianity. We will be discussing whether all Christians believe in the same thing and the different beliefs that there are in Christianity.

Shared home learning:

Please encourage your child to read for 20 minutes, as a minimum everyday. This should be logged in their reading journal on a daily basis. Our vocabulary and spellings that we will be practising and looking at over the half term will be shared via Seesaw and these can be discussed, practised and looked at whilst at home. It is always great to ask your child the definitions of words and see if they can put them into a sentence! An optional Maths. and English home will be set via Seesaw on a weekly basis. The answers for this will accompany the work and raffle tickets and rewards may be given for these by the teachers.

Key Dates:

4th and 5th January - Crystal Maze Maths. Days
6th January - Wonder Day
13th January - World Religion Day
25th January - History Day

W.B 30th January - National Storytelling Week
W.B 6th February - Children's Mental Health Week
10th February - LGBT History Day
W.B 13th February - Safer Internet Week

