



Books/Stories/Poems:

George's Key to the Universe
Harris Burdick
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Alien Invasion
Variety of non-fiction books
on space

Visit/Visitors

Visit to Chichester
Planetarium.

A night with the
stars- stargazing.

Year 5 trip to Sky
Skills academy.

JOURNEY INTO SPACE Willow Class Spring Term 2016

History

History of space exploration

Science

- Earth, sun and moon
- Rotation of planets around the sun
- Seasons and eclipses
- Night and day
- Gravity
- Stars
- Phases of the moon
- Science of light

Art/DT

Making tissue
mache planet

Space pictures in
water colour

Making display
backing paper using
splatter art

Making space
rockets from junk

English

Writing: Biography of Tim Peake, Space Stories, Planet
Information Leaflets, Recount, Diary and Balanced Reports.

Reading: Individual, Fiction & non-fiction, Whole class RIC
(Retrieve, Interpret, Choice Reading Lessons)

Mathematics

Number; formal methods of calculation
Measures/Area & Perimeter
Statistics/ Fractions
Problem solving and investigations
Arithmetic tests to get used to
the new SAT format

Music - 'Roundabout' - exploring instrumental and vocal
rounds, drones, ostinato patterns and chord sequences.
'Songwriter' - exploring lyrics and melodies and composing
their own songs.
Children will examine how the style of music reflects the
theme of the song

R.E. - Religious texts across Religions

P.E. Y5 Swimming
Y6 Games/fitness

Computing - Coding, blogging,
games and animations

PSHCE - Going for goals



Dear Parents/Carers

As you can see, we have a very busy term ahead of us with our new topic 'Journey to Space'. The children have already been involved in a trip to the South Downs Planetarium, a night with the stars and in writing Tim Peake's biography.

Willow PE will now be on Tuesday afternoon with Mr Newman. Year 5 children will be swimming on Monday afternoons, during which time Mrs Pearce and I will be taking the opportunity to do some focussed work with Year 6 children. In the colder, damper weather, please could children have warm tops and long trousers (grey or black track bottoms). It is also useful if they have a spare pair of socks in their PE kit. When the weather is good, I will be taking the children for a short, "pre-learning" run in the morning.

Homework will continue to be set on Thursdays and given in on Mondays. Four pieces of homework will be set each week, designed to take 20 minutes each. These will include spellings, reading, and maths. Your child will also have their chosen times table to learn each week. Please could you remind them of the importance of handing homework in on time. We have limited times for marking and if it is not in on time it will not be possible to mark it before the next set is given out. There will of course be the odd time when homework is forgotten or not finished for genuine reasons - please tell your child to speak to me about it and I will help them to catch up.

I know how much this class enjoy reading and how much they enjoy being read to. It would be helpful if you could hear your child read as often as possible and also read to them, in addition to their independent reading which should be every day. We will continue to record how many times they have read for the Reading Light Years. To make it easier, reading diaries should be handed in with homework on Mondays.

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the non-negotiable list. Tables and spellings will be tested on Monday.

It is lovely to see so many children arriving in class at 8.30, and I will use this opportunity for some extra learning opportunities and some physical exercise. With this in mind, please remind children to have their PE kit in school every day - we will run when the weather is good.

I would like to start lessons promptly at 8.45 every morning. I appreciate that there are times you need to talk to me and I am very happy to do this, but it is difficult to discuss things in confidence in the class with the children. Therefore, unless it is something that affects the day, please try to catch me at the gate at the end of the day, or ask the office to arrange a meeting with me. I am in school every evening except Wednesdays.

As we approach the NCT tests in May, we will be holding booster sessions for groups and individual children at various times during the day. Your children have already expressed enthusiasm for these, even the lunchtime ones. We will be discussing this in more detail at the SATs/IOW meeting on Thursday 4th February.

Of course Year 6 also have the IOW trip to look forward to and we will be going through all the exciting details at the meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Please do come and speak to me if you have any concerns about any of the above and I look forward to teaching your children for the rest of the term.

Jo Duffy