

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas. Thank you for your cards and gifts. Here is a short overview of what we will be covering before Easter.

English:

Key Skills Unit: A week long focus on improving vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation. This is based around the book we will be focusing on this term: 'Zathura'.

Performance Poetry: A unit studying poetry that is written to be performed focused on Space e.g. to a poetry beat or through song.

Story Unit: A focus on the book Zathura, where the children create their own adventure story based around a board game like in Zathura and Jumanji.

Explanations and Non-Chronological reports: Children will create space books that include factual information about planets and the Solar System and explain different scientific concepts, such as why we have seasons.

Home help ideas: Encourage children to use adjectives and adverbs. When they talk about an object ask them to describe it or ask them how they are doing things e.g. quickly, slowly, carefully.

It is also vital that all children are completing the spelling homework tasks that are set on Monday and Wednesday (see attached sheet).

Sentence and word level games can be found on www.bbc.co.uk/schools - click on primary, then English and the www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk. These sites also have some reading activity tasks related to both non-fiction and fiction.

Maths: In Maths this term we will be covering the following 5 units:

- Statistics (previously known as Data Handling – interpreting graphs, tables and timetables and converting between units of time).
- Shape (3D shapes, angles)
- Calculation (using + - x and ÷)
- Place Value (using decimals, fractions and percentages)
- Measures (converting between measures and calculating area and perimeter).

Home help ideas: Encouraging and helping the children to learn their times tables. There are also some games on the BBC KS2 Bitesize revision website, which can be a fun way for the children to consolidate their previous knowledge and help them to progress to the next stage. Also, help your child to tell the time, reading analogue and digital clocks as well as knowing what they do at different times of the day e.g. Go into school at 10 minutes to 9.

TOPICS:



Space: A topic focusing on the Science of the Solar System as well as providing great opportunities for Art and DT alongside an extended Music and Dance unit.

Home help ideas: The concept of the Earth, Sun and Moon can be quite daunting to children and hard to grasp. The BBC Revise Wise website has an excellent section on this unit for the children to look at.

Computing: Computing will be taught in one discrete lesson each week. These will focus on data handling and computer programming.



RE (Pilgrimage): Children will be investigating how people of faith make religious journeys with a focus on Christianity and Islam.

PSHE: Our units this term will be '*Going for Goals*' and '*It's good to be Me*' looking at self-motivation and building self-esteem.



PE: Children must have PE kits (including suitable footwear) in school every day as they may be participating in running activities throughout the week. In PE lessons children will be taking part in gymnastics with the sports coach and dance.

Homework: Homework will be set using the following rota however, later in the term the children will be receiving revision booklets in preparation for the SATs in Term 5. A separate letter will follow about these revision guides: we will be needing to ask for a donation towards the cost. There will be a chance for you to come to a SATs meeting towards the end of Term 4.

Monday	Reading and spelling
Tuesday	Number clubs and times table practice
Wednesday	Reading and spelling
Thursday	Topic
Friday	Maths/English

There will also be project based homework which will focus on Space and will continue on from the parent workshop. More information to follow at the English Workshop.

Key dates:

22nd January – English workshop - 9 – 10.30am: An opportunity for parents to come in and work with their children. See letter and/or invite from children.

As always, if you wish to discuss any matter that arises, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me about it. I am usually free on Wednesdays and Fridays after school.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Swanson.