



4th March 2016

Year 5 topic introduction – Space Explorers

Dear Parents,

Year 5 will soon be starting their new International Primary Curriculum unit which focuses on 'Astronomy and Space'. During this unit we will be focusing on Science, History, Art, Technology and International.

In Science, we'll be finding out:

- About the size of the Sun and the Moon
- How to compare the size of the planets and their distance from the Sun
- About the movements of the Earth, Sun and Moon and how they affect us
- How to classify rocks and comparing rocks on Earth with those on the Moon
- About how craters are formed and the forces that are involved
- How to make a spectrometer to find out about light and what it contains
- About how light travels
- How to create a timeline to show the life cycle of a star
- More about the planets in our solar system

In History, we'll be finding out:

- About what people in the past used to think about the Earth, Sun and Moon
- About Galileo and his findings about the Earth, Sun and Moon
- About the constellations and the stories that they tell
- How to make a timeline to show some of the important events in the history of astronomy

In Art, we'll be finding out:

- About nebulae and how we can capture their shape, colour and patterns in art
- About satellites and how we can create our own satellite images

In Technology, we'll be finding out:

- About the technology that is being used to explore Mars
- How to design and make our own vehicle to explore a planet's surface

In International, we'll be finding out:

- About the International Space Station (ISS)
- How to create our own Voyager golden record to send into space



Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest are most important.

By the end of the unit, we hope your child has had an enjoyable time in the classroom. We also hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments about the work your child has done, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

The Year 5 Team