

What a busy but positive start to the year it was last half term! The children are now settled into the routines of the classroom and have developed good relationships with all of the year 1 adults.

We are looking forward to welcoming more new members of our class this half term and for the excitement in the run up to Christmas! As you can see from the dates below, there is lots going on!

In our first week back, we were shocked to find an alien crash site in our playground and we have been busy investigating!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to come and speak to one of us.

Mrs Housden and Mrs Green



Dates for the diary:

Wb 28th October – School Council Elections (in classes) Wb 4th November – Charity of the Year polling stations **7th November** – Pathfinder's Got Talent at 6.30pm 13th November – Parents' Evening 5-7.30pm 14th November – Parents' Evening 3.40-6pm 15th November – CHILDREN IN NEED 18th November – Wren Family Lunch 29th November – Christmas Decoration Day 9th December – FOPs Christmas Present Room 12th December – Christmas Production 2pm 13th December – Christmas Production 6pm - Christmas Lunch 16th December – Class Christmas Parties (am) - FOPs Christmas Event (pm) 17th December – Christingle Service at 2.30pm 18th December – LAST DAY OF TERM

This half term's theme is 'Moon Zoom!' in which the children will be learning all about space and getting creative with both their ideas and a range items they will be making.

The children will have an opportunity to take part in a session from a visiting mobile planetarium. Letter to follow!!!



In our **English** lessons we will be learning about a range of genres and relating them to our theme of 'Space'. This will include; looking at the features of and creating our own posters and adverts looking at how word choices can affect the way people read something, using the story Beegu to write character profiles and writing non-chronological reports about astronauts following some research.

We will continue to move forward with our **phonics learning** and will let you know each week of the phonemes we have been learning with some example words, so you are able to support at home.

In science, we will be investigating a range of everyday materials, discovering their properties and sorting them accordingly. We will also be learning about the Solar System, the planets and their order. Finally we will be carrying out an investigation into how far a balloon powered rocket can travel along a piece of string.

In our topic lessons, we will focus on designing and making a range of space themed vehicles. We will test these and assess how we can improve our models. We will learn about the history of space travel and exploration, with a particular focus on famous astronauts such as Neil Armstrong and Uri Gagarin. In computing we will be using drawing programs to create alien pictures and program a robot with instructions to follow a path around an alien landscape. We will also be looking at satellite and aerial photos of Earth taken from space.

Maths

This half term, we will be continuing our focus on number and place value and extending our range of written methods for addition and subtraction. We will also be undertaking a unit on



shape focusing on identifying properties of 2D and 3D share. As always, we will keep practising accurate counting (including counting in 2s, 10s and 5s and continue to develop general confidence in number knowledge.

Some Year 1 routines & reminders:

Children are expected to read to an adult 5 times a week at **home.** Reading records will be checked on a Monday morning to complete reading reward bookmarks. If a child needs to change their reading book their book and record needs to be placed in the tray by the classroom door. Books will then be changed that day.

A slight change; Home learning books will be collected in on a Thursday and sent out on a Friday with new home learning tasks. Home learning books should be in school every day as a communication device. If there is a note that you would like an adult to read and respond to, please ask your child to put their book in the tray. We will do our best to respond on the same dav.

Spellings will be set on a Friday and tested on the following Friday. We will aim to record the score from spelling tests in the home learning books.

Please ensure children have a **water bottle** in school as this is more easily accessible than using the water fountain during learning times. School water bottles are available from the office.

Our P.E. days are Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure children have full P.E. Kit (including outdoor wear) in school. P.E. Kits will be sent home at the end of each half term.

Our indoor P.E. sessions will focus on a gymnastics unit called "Rock and Roll". In our outdoor games lessons will be focusing on Outdoor Adventurous Activities, working in groups to develop trust and teamwork skills.

