



## Term 2: Space is the Place!

As our theme this term, we will be investigating Space! This will include asking questions about the solar system and beyond- building on what we learnt in our geography topic to cover **what causes day, night and the seasons**, how it is that the moon **appears differently over the course of a month**, some of the **history of our understanding of space** and debating the value of space travel and exploration- drawing on recent news items about space as a stimulus. We will use our Maths and Science knowledge to engage with investigations and answer our questions on the subject and will look at how space has influenced and inspired art and culture. The book we are reading, and basing much of our writing work on is called "Cosmic" by Frank Cottrell Boyce.

### Writing

This term, we will explore instruction and explanation texts- using precise verbs (*repair* instead of *fix*, *choose* or *select* instead of *pick*), and technical language to explain a complicated process in a simple and logical way to our reader. Children tend to use interesting nouns before they start using interesting verbs, so we are challenging the class to practise being specific with the language they use (and you could challenge them at home). Can they explain what they mean when they say, 'stuff' or 'things' (technical nouns)? We could use 'received,' 'collected,' or 'won' (or understood!) instead of 'got'; 'sprinted,' 'travelled,' 'hiked' instead of 'went.' We could use 'completed,' 'finished,' 'attended,' 'saw,' 'experienced,' 'enjoyed,' instead of 'I did that,' (precise verbs).

### Reading

Many thanks for continuing to encourage your children to read **5 times a week**; remember, any text counts! Magazines, instructions and recipes and texts read out and about in museums and exhibits can all go in the reading record and reading in a context that your child enjoys helps to build a lifelong love of reading. As we have a big focus on grammar, it would be great to ask the children to pick out explain examples of complex sentences and added clauses which add detail to the texts you are reading alongside similes, metaphors and other imagery in the text.

### Maths

In Maths this term, we will look at how we can understand and learn **efficient written methods for multiplying and dividing numbers**. In order to succeed at these things, you must ensure that you are **learning your multiplication and related division facts**. Practise answering questions like, "How many groups of 6 are there in 40? What would be left over? What would the remainder be as a fraction (4/6)?"

As a way to continuously support the children's learning at home over the term, we have included ideas for a couple of competitive games that you could play. These games are easy for anyone to get the hang of but stimulate reasoning and require in depth knowledge of the Maths to enable you to succeed at them. It also explains our approaches to teaching the written methods for multiplication and division.

