



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an exciting and adventurous first term with our Kingswood trip, volcano experiments and Natural Disaster focus. Now we look forward to launching our new learning theme for the final half term of 2015.

### **MAIN LEARNING THEME – ‘Space – the final frontier’**

Year 6 will be learning about the solar system and human exploration of space through a variety of hands on learning experiences. To launch the topic, the children will take part in a number of science experiments linked to gases. The theme will be linked across our Literacy (non-fiction and narrative), art, maths, and extended writing work, and will incorporate the combined focus of science and history. Religious Education will continue to be taught using the new Peterborough Guidelines.

### **Areas of study will include:**

- The Earth's place in space.
- The history of the space race.
- Light and sound, day and night, and the seasons.
- Designing and making moon buggies.

### **KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:**

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Sun, moon, orbit, rotation, axis, solar system, Milky Way, galaxy, universe, asteroid, comet, rocket, gas, ice, surface, atmosphere, compression, expansion, molecules, disperse, gravity, vacuum, rocket, space shuttle, booster, satellite, air resistance, thruster, friction, force, splash landing, astronaut, cosmonaut, space station, light, sound, reflection, refraction, spectrum, waves, beam, laser, absorb, visibility, audio, visual, optical, Space race, Apollo, NASA, poles, equator, distance, season, autumn, winter, summer, spring, calendar,

### **MATHS**

The main learning focus for next half term are as follows: fractions, decimals and percentages; triangles and angle geometry; measurement and statistics with large numbers. We will be continuing our focus on mental maths and practising and applying key number and calculation skills throughout. In addition to this, our work on Mastery will provide the children with plenty of opportunities to explore investigational maths, problem solve and deepen understanding.

### **ENGLISH**

In English next half term, we will be focussing initially on writing non-chronological reports about the planets, as we explore and learn about our solar system. Following that, we will switch our attention to narrative writing and develop our higher order story writing skills. Our final focus is flexible, as the children will take ownership of their final writing focus and set their own goals to achieve in the genre of their choosing. This is an exciting and child-driven approach to Literacy, and the children will be taught and supported with developing the skills of their chosen genre within small groups.

### **TRIPS**

Next half term, we are hoping to visit the National Space Centre in Leicester. This is an essential part of our learning journey, as it provides firsthand experience of space exploration, the science involved and artefacts we don't have access to school. We are currently organising this and further information will be provided once the quotes for costing have arrived.



## **PE**

Children will continue to partake in two hours of PE each week. Please remind your child that they should bring their PE kit into school on a Monday, **leave it in school all week** then take it home to be washed on a Friday. This way, if we choose to do extra PE, the children will have their kit in school.

This should consist of:

- Plain white top
- Black or grey shorts
- Black or grey long bottoms for the colder weather
- Long sleeved top for the colder weather
- Spare white socks
- Plimsolls/trainers

Can we remind you that school rules state that, for the safety of your child, earrings need to be removed for PE (which needs to be done independently) or plasters (provided by home) need to cover the earrings. Children with long hair will also be asked to ensure that it is tied back. Could you please ensure that **all** kit is **named** clearly and are checked on a regular basis when written onto labels. As the weather is getting colder, please ensure your child has gloves, long sleeves, long bottoms and spare socks with them.

## **PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT**

To make our topic learning more involved for your children, when you are at the library, watching television, or searching on the internet, you could focus some time on Space and associated topics as they arise. Also getting involved in the home learning projects with your child can make it a more fun and meaningful activity. We will also be having a science day where you can join your children in experimenting with light, which will be held towards the end of term, before Christmas break. The exact date and time will be confirmed after the half term break.

## **HOME LEARNING**

Your child will receive a half-termly POWER project which will be given out on the first Wednesday of the term. This has been very successful so far in other parts of school and the children have enjoyed creating their projects very much. These tasks will again enable the children earn POWER points. These activities are not compulsory, but are a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. The way in which the work is presented is entirely up to the child; the more creative the better!

In addition to this, every Monday, the children will be given weekly spellings, a literacy and maths task which are due the following Friday. This home learning is expected to be completed at home and handed in on time by the due date. Can you please ensure that your child completes the literacy/maths home learning each week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

## **BREAK TIMES**

Children may bring in a snack to eat at morning break but it must be a healthy option, and remember that we are a nut free school.

Also, a Hot Meal option is available every day for your child's lunch but they must be paid for in advance using the school's ParentPay system.

## **LET'S CONTINUE OUR FABULOUS START TO THE YEAR AND HAVE FUN!!**

**It has been an exciting to Year 6 and we are thoroughly enjoying working with the whole class and wider school community. Next term promises to be another busy one, and we are sure we will have another fun and productive term up to Christmas.**

Yours sincerely

Mr Reynolds  
Class Teacher

Mrs Locke  
HLTA

Mrs Frost  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs McFarland  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds  
Head Teacher

