

Interesting ways to support learning

Australia is sadly very much in the news at the moment – take the opportunity to find out a bit more about this amazing country and its neighbour New Zealand.

Browse websites like NASA for kids to find out more about life in Space.

<https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>

Topic Launch

On Tuesday 7th January we will be launching our topic with a visit from Al Sylvester MBE.

Al is a very well -known RAF Mountain Rescue Service leader who as well as being involved on over 400 rescue operations, has adventured to the extremes of the planet, including the South Pole.



What an Adventure!

Lower Key Stage 2 Team



HOW CAN MY PARENT HELP ME?

Please take a look at our new website and in particular the Home Learning page where you will find useful websites and spelling resources to support your child's learning at home.

Reading: We would encourage children to read for pleasure as much as possible. We allow children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) to choose their own reading books. However, we will always ensure that each child has chosen a book with a suitable level of challenge. We expect all children to be reading independently or to an adult for at least 20 minutes 4 times a week.

Maths: 'Times Table Rockstars' is a fun, free interactive game online which can be accessed via our school website. All the children have a school log- in which they can use at home. The children should understand how it works. Please encourage your child to play in their spare time, as times tables recall is an essential skill that will help them across the maths curriculum. Children in Year 4 will be sitting a national Times Table Test in the summer term and TT Rockstars is excellent preparation for this.



<https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

TOPIC OVERVIEW TERM 3

Welcome back!

We hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break. Our whole school topic for the Spring term is **What an Adventure!**

This half term we will be finding out about the voyages of Captain Cook and his discoveries. We will extend our geographical understanding of the world and look in particular at Australia.

Later on in the term we will be finding out about Space Exploration and in particular at female space explorers.



THIS TERM, YOU WILL LEARN...

English	This term we will be writing to entertain which will include learning about Australian legends. We will also be writing Space poetry.
Maths	We will be working through the National Curriculum for Maths. Our main focus for this term will be Multiplication & Division. The children will be taught in year groups for maths. We will also be focusing on Measures & Statistics.
Science	The children will be learning about the properties of materials (solids, liquids and gases) and changes in state. In addition we'll look at the Solar System and how to survive on the moon!
Art & Design	Take One Picture (whole school) Space Art
Geography/ History	The children will be locating Australia and its surrounding oceans/neighbours. They will learn about the voyages of Captain Cook and also identify the key countries and people involved in space exploration (particularly women).
PE	Swimming (Mrs Adlam's class) Tennis Gymnastics
French	Colours, Pets, Tahiti
Music	Space Music (day)
Computing	Website design – Australia.
RE	Worship Prayer Space Week
PSHE	Mindfulness Family Links

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THIS TERM

PE:

Please could you ensure that children have their PE kit in school all week. PE kits should include:

A plain white top / house top (summer)

Plain black or navy joggers / shorts

A school rugby top (winter) – these are a new addition to our PE uniform and are available from 'Make It Mine', our school uniform shop. Alternatively a black or navy jumper (no hoodies).

Sports trainers (can be same as those worn to school, if dark coloured) however we will be doing rugby so a change of shoes is preferable if possible.

Please make sure that all school uniform items (including PE kits) are clearly labelled.

Equipment:

All stationery is provided by school. No pencil cases or other equipment from home should be brought in as this often causes problems if items get broken or lost and can act as a distraction for some children.

Snacks:

We would encourage you to send your child in with a healthy snack (fruit or cheese) that can be eaten at playtime. It is important that your child brings a water bottle to school each day.

Mornings

The school day starts at **8:40am** so the children should arrive and go straight to the playground between 8.30 and 8.40am. A whistle is blown at 8.40am and children should line up in their classes. The class teacher will then collect the children and take them back to class for registration. At this point parents will need to allow their child to enter the school building with their class and class teacher. We believe that this is good practice to build independence as the children move up through the school.

End of the Day

All classes will be dismissed from the playground. If your child has a play date or is being collected by someone else, please inform the office, as without permission we will be unable to allow the children to go.

Special Event:

Tues 7th Jan: Al Sylvester visit

Wednesday 8th Jan: Rabbi visit

Monday 20th Jan: Panto (Peter Pan) at school.