

Year 5 Newsletter - Spring Term 2018 Part 1

Our **Topic** this half term has been all about Space! We have been learning about the space race and Apollo programmes, and written biographies about some of the famous Astronauts, such as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. After this we took part in an intensive 'Astronaut Training Programme', which was designed to test the specific skills needed by astronauts, such as hand-eye coordination and the ability to work under pressure. We used the results to help support our application letter to NASA. We explored what life is like on board the International Space Station (ISS) and discovered that the things we do on Earth are a lot more difficult to carry out in space. To help the new astronauts, we wrote instructions to show them how to eat, sleep, brush their teeth, wash their hair and even to go to the toilet! We've had lots of fun so far this term.



In **Science**, we really enjoyed our visit from the Learning Dome. Mr Hume called us up in groups of seven to crawl through a tunnel to get inside the dome. We were amazed by what we saw whilst in there. First, he explained the moon's phases as it orbits the Earth. Next, he explained why we have day and night. Afterwards, he had a special projector that he used to turn the space dome into the night sky with all the stars! He pointed out some of the constellations, like the Plough and explained why some stars shine more brightly than others.

In **RE**, we have been learning about Islam. We learnt that Muslims have to pray 5 times a day (Fajr- before sunrise, Zohar- midday, Asr- late afternoon, Magrib-after sunset and Isha- almost midnight) and they have a Salah prayer ritual. Prayer involves both speech and actions. In class we learnt some of the different prayer positions. We created colourful pictures of mosques with windows that explained the importance of the different features. Before any Muslim enters a mosque, they must take their shoes off and wash their hands, feet and mouth. Muslims read a Qur'an just like Christians read the Bible. We designed our own prayer mats with geometric patterns, pictures of mosques and plants (Muslims are not allowed to use pictures of animals or humans).



In **Maths** we have been learning about the formal written method for multiplying 4 digits by 2 digits and the short division method for dividing 4 digits by 1 digit numbers. At first we found this a little tricky, but through using resources, such as the place value counters, and a little guidance from our teachers, everybody enjoyed the challenge. We had fun creating our own calculations and applying our knowledge to solve problems.

We have been busy in **English** so far this term. We watched a short Pixar film called 'La Luna' and wrote a set of instructions to help the little boy carry out his job of sweeping the moon into the different phases by himself. As there is no dialogue in the film, next we worked in groups to write the dialogue for the different parts of the film. We then practised, performed and recorded our dialogue as a voice over, whilst the film played in the background. We had lots of fun recording it. Afterwards, we watched a film about Pandora. Pandora is a moon that orbits the planet Polyphemus. We researched the different animals that live there and created a non-chronological report about one of them. We published our reports on the computers and laptops and created a book for our book corner. Next we are looking forward to inventing our own planets.



In **PE**, we have been learning cricket with coach John. Through lots of fun games, we have learnt new, and improved upon, key skills such as bowling, batting and fielding. We hope to put these skills to the test in a year group inter-house tournament. We feel very lucky to have been taught by John, who is an amazing coach, and has made us all look forward to PE each week.