



Cropredy Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents, Carers and Children

17th September 2021

Welcome to year 2! I am looking forward to getting to know the children and you as this term progresses. We are going to be embarking on the exciting topic of space, with a particular emphasis on learning about our moon.

Below is an outline of the various learning experiences your child will encounter this half term.

English

Rather than join all the traffic in Cornwall for a holiday, imagine getting away from it all with a trip to the moon! What would it be like? What would we see? Using this as inspiration, how can we find out more information about the moon? The first few weeks of our English lessons will focus on accessing non-fiction books to gather information for writing a fact file about the moon. The children will learn skills such as asking and writing questions, using the correct punctuation. They will find answers to questions by accessing contents, index and glossary pages of a non-fiction text and will create their own glossary for any technical vocabulary used in their fact file. The children will also learn how to use fact file features such as captions under pictures and catchy titles.

After learning facts about the moon, Year 2 will be introduced to the character called Beegu from a story of the same name written by Alexis Deacon. Beegu is a friendly creature from out of Space who has crash landed on Earth. As a whole class, we will be learning the skills of diary writing as we catalogue Beegu's experiences on our planet. The children will then use these skills to practise writing individual diary entries of a holiday to the moon. They will learn to express feelings and use time language such as first, next, and finally.

Maths

Using the rocket countdown, we will be practising counting forwards and backwards in twos, fives and tens, as well as beginning to look at counting forwards in threes. Being able to spell the written form of numbers will be practised in class and will form some of their spelling's homework.

A large part of our maths this term will be based on revisiting place value, i.e., do the children understand the value of numbers in a 2-digit number. For example, twelve is made up of one ten and two ones. Can the children use equipment to show this as well as draw pictorial images to represent this? We will then progress onto adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers by adding the tens and ones separately.

Topic

In History, the children will be learning all about the Apollo 11 mission and the first man to land on the moon, Neil Armstrong. They will be researching different forms of evidence such as newspaper clippings and television footage to find out more information and will be creating a timeline of the first landing on the moon. The class will also be using a comparison of 'then' and 'now' to look at how space travel has changed over time.

What would Earth look like from Space? What would the character 'Beegu' have seen in his spaceship? In Geography, the children will help teach Beegu about our world by using Google Earth on the internet. Can they find the UK and name the countries and capital cities as well as the seas that surround us? The class will also learn atlas skills to label a world map showing the continents and oceans.

In Science, we will have fun re-creating experiments to investigate the question of how craters were formed on the moon. The children will learn what categorises things as being living, non-living or dead and why we couldn't live on the moon. They will begin to look at how astronauts keep fit and healthy and will devise an exercise plan for others in the class to follow.

In Art, the children will be using form and shape to make a relief of the moon's surface with craters. They will learn how to mix paint to create different tones and will experiment with how to make different textures for the moon's surface. In D.T. they will learn how to join materials when making models of space craft. And there will be lots of space themed songs to learn in music.

PE

During the first term, children will have their Physical Education lessons on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

On Wednesday the children will do gymnastics in the hall.

On Friday afternoon sessions will take a multi-skills approach, helping to children to develop a range of games-based skills; Friday sessions will be led by Mr Pemble.

How you can support your child

- Read lots of books together on the theme of space. When using non-fiction texts, let your child navigate around the book by using the contents page to choose what they want to read first. If they find any good facts, perhaps they could write it down and share it with the class.
- To enhance our topic, you could organise a trip to the National Space centre in Leicester or visit the planetarium at the Think-tank in Birmingham. We would love to hear all about it in the class. Previously, children have sent in photos via e-mail for me to share with the class as well as a written diary of what they did, or your child could simply talk about their trip.
- With number work, encourage your child to count in twos, fives and tens or even threes for a challenge. Perhaps you could create a tick chart for each time they achieve a milestone such as counting to 30 and back using the different steps.
- When out and about, discuss and name shapes found. Can your child say how many sides and vertices (points) the shapes have? Is it 2D or 3D?

If there is any way that I can help support you or your child going forwards, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school; telephone number 01295 750210 or email me through

office.3000@croppedy.oxon.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mrs Middleton-Mai