

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and found time to relax during the festivities. Our topic this term is 'X-Files' with a big focus on investigating outer space and developing our understanding of forces. We will be discussing and researching whether there is life in space and how this is evidenced. Our books for the term are 'How To Train A Dragon' and 'Tuesday'. We will be using subject knowledge and our imagination and creativity to write in the style of these stories and authors. We will be creating our own information booklet about the Solar System- What Lies Beyond?

This term is a particularly exciting one as we have our residential trip to Braeside in February. We understand that many of the children are already looking forward to it, and it provides a great opportunity for them to develop their independence and teamwork. We can't wait to then complete work based around our Braeside experience. Please feel free to come and chat to me about any worries or concerns that you may have about this trip.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's homework. Homework will go out on a Monday and will be collected in on the Friday. Spelling lists will go out weekly along with a reading comprehension or maths task related to the previous weeks learning. At the moment we are having a real focus on times tables and arithmetic so TT Rockstars will be set weekly and for those who are 66 and above on the 99 club will be set reasoning and problem solving activities. If possible, please try and hear your child read regularly so that you can question them on what they are reading. The children need to ensure that they are on a colour band book and also vary the genre of this book- comic, newspaper, library book, poetry, magazine..... They need to read daily and record a little blurb each day in their diary.

In Maths it is really important that the children know all of their times tables as this will help them in class and also help them in other areas of maths. The children really enjoy practising their tables using TT Rock Stars, which they can not only access at school but at home too. There are lots of activities on <http://mathszone.co.uk/> which support mathematical development and we found the website <http://www.timestables.me.uk/printable-pdf-quiz-generator.htm> excellent because you can generate tests for particular tables and complete tests online.

PE is on a Wednesday and a Friday so please ensure that all children bring in the appropriate kit on a Monday then take it home on the Friday. It is a really important part of the curriculum and part of our drive in becoming a healthier school. We will also be continuing to complete our Golden Mile daily so the children will need appropriate footwear for this.

Parent helpers are still really valued at the top of the school. If anyone who has a DBS check has any time to come in and support the children, for example by hearing them read, it would be greatly appreciated because we have so few parents that are able to help.

Don't forget to check the website and Dojo regularly for updates on what we have been doing each week. Thank you again for your continued support. Please remember that my door is always open and although I always seem to be rushing around, I will ensure that I make time to speak with you.

Best wishes
Miss Sylvester