

Dear Parents/Carers,

A short note to familiarise yourselves and your child to the curriculum in Year 3/4. This letter will give you some general information about our topic for the Autumn Term - 'Adventures in Space'.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<p data-bbox="188 282 485 315">Adventures in Space</p> 	<p data-bbox="608 282 989 315">Rock on Through the Ages</p> 	<p data-bbox="1139 282 1406 315">Raiders of the UK</p> 

Curriculum

At Carlton Central Junior School we teach a 'topic based curriculum' and most subjects are taught in a cross curricular fashion. Teaching in this way creates a more meaningful learning experience for the children as they can apply the knowledge and skills learned in one subject to others. This reinforces their learning and increases their understanding and confidence.

Science

The children will learn about the movement of the Earth and other planets in relation to the Sun in our solar system. They will discover how day and night are created and study the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky. The children will also learn about the phases of the Moon and why we experience different seasons. Moving on, the children will learn how light travels and how our eyes are able to see things. They will recognise how shadows are formed when light is blocked by an opaque object and they will create investigations into testing how shadows change.

English

Each class is focusing on award winning books 'Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob)' by Simon Bartram and 'Bob and the Disappearing Moon'. Children will produce several types of writing including: balanced arguments, poems to perform, stories with a historical setting, explanations and non-chronological reports.

Art/Design and Technology

The children will research and evaluate existing toy monsters in order to gain a deeper understanding of existing designs. They will then learn the importance of following a simple design criteria to fulfil the desired outcome. Following on from this, the children will learn how pneumatic systems work. In order to create movement, the children will incorporate a pneumatic system into their final design of a toy space monster. Later on in the term the children will research the distinct painting style of Vincent Van Gogh. They will re-create these techniques in their own paintings of planets.

Geography

Children will identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).

Reading

Each child is allocated with a school reading book. This will be at an appropriate level for them. Any reading at home or school should be recorded in their personal organisers. We ask that you share a book with your child each evening for ten minutes.

Spellings

Spellings will continue to be given out on Mondays and the spelling test will be on Fridays. This year, spellings will be taught daily and will focus on a specific sound/pattern/rule. Once every half term a whole school spelling event will take place involving learning the spellings from the National Curriculum's statutory lists.

Computing

We are starting with E-safety then moving on to creating a multimodal storyboard of our class book using Photostory 3 software. We are also using the laptops to research facts about planets.

Maths.

Our Maths lessons this term include the following topics: place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions and decimals and measures. The whole school is continuing to focus on times tables and children will be challenged to recall each times table (up to x12) in less than 20 seconds. Your help and support in working at home with the children to develop their tables' knowledge would be much appreciated.

PSHE (Personal and Social Health Education)

Our first theme is New Beginnings. The children will discuss and learn skills such as how to make new people feel welcome. We will also explore our own emotions and discover ways to manage them in difficult situations.

RE

The children will learn about inspirational people and how they influence the beliefs of others. We will begin with researching the teachings of Moses and how he motivated other people. We will then move on to learn how Neil Armstrong's work and achievements influenced the thoughts and actions of the whole world.

PE

This term the children will start off learning attacking and defending skills through playing games of Handball. Later on they will be taught skills and techniques in the racket sports of Tennis and Badminton. Mr Cannon will be continuing to teach PE this year and will initially start in Rowan and Oak teaching Rugby.

Music

The children will start by being taught how to sing back a single note. They will then move on to being able to talk and respond to pieces of music giving reasons for their opinions. They will learn how to compose a short piece of music within a given structure. Finally, the children will work on composing a musical piece entitled 'Planets'. Once complete, they will perform their pieces to an audience.

British Values

Throughout our topic the children will learn the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The importance of laws and mutual respect will be promoted continuously through the school's behaviour policy. Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs will be taught during RE and PSHE lessons when discussing different ideologies and ways of life.

Educational Visits and other Curricular events

We are blasting off with this topic in style! On Wednesday 14th September an inflatable planetarium arrived. This provided an exciting learning experience and was quite literally 'out of this world'. Towards Christmas the topic will be drawing to a close ... so to bring the children's learning to a memorable climax, we are visiting the National Space Centre in Leicester on 9th December. To celebrate the topic, Oak class will be performing their Adventures in Space assembly on Tuesday 6th December at 9am, we hope to see you there! Silver Birch's assembly will be on Thursday 16th March at 9am and Rowan class' assembly will be right at the end of the year on Tuesday 11th July.

Whole School Homework

Homework continues to be given out on a Tuesday. Maths is given out every Tuesday and the children have one week to complete it. Maths homework is always linked to the topic studied that week. Whole school homework this term is going to be linked to the current topic. Children will be able to pick their homework task from a range of exciting options! Spellings are given out every Monday.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you require any further information. Thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards,

D Patchett

K Daly

K Mallon

T Schofield