



Denton Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers of Children in Class 5

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday. This letter is to let you know what we will be doing in class over the next two terms leading up to Easter, and how you can help your child.

The overall theme for this term is Digital Denton and as such we will be doing lots of game programming and using ICT as part of our other topics.

One of these other topics is looking at our Earth in Space; finding out about planets and how the movements of our earth determine our ideas about time. Maths will link with this when we look at scaling relative sizes and distances of planets. Currently we have a Space investigation tent in our class but after half term this will become our Space museum. The children have all been given a homework task to create an artefact and explanation of it for the museum, and after half term they will be our curators and show the rest of the school what they have made. We have also signed up to speak with Tim Peake on the International space station and I hope that this will be able to go ahead since it will be an exciting opportunity. In addition to this a letter will be coming home soon about our intended trip to the Leicester Space centre. Our programming in ICT will link with Space because we are going to be creating simple space invader games and quizzes about our topic.

Our Literacy topic revolves around a story by Helen Cresswell called 'The Watchers' - this is a mystery that takes place at Alton Towers (so don't be surprised if your child suddenly wants to visit a theme park!). Alongside specific grammar lessons, we will be writing stories, letters, poems, reports and diaries to link with the story and carrying out reading activities based on the book as well.

In Design Technology we will be investigating pulley and gear mechanisms in order to create Space themed, turning fairground rides. This links our literacy topic with our science topic but also gives us an opportunity to use our maths skills in a practical context. In addition to this, the children will be given the opportunity to use motors and electric circuits to make their rides turn – this has proved very exciting in previous years.

In RE the children will be looking at Sikhism in order to gain a better understanding of their own values and those of others.

In maths we will be focusing on fractions: calculating with fractions, problem solving and linking fractions with decimals and percentages. After half term we will be focusing on shape: perimeter, area, volume and measure.

The children will continue to have spellings each week, given out on a Monday and tested on Friday (it is important that spellings are learned to help with reading and writing). They will also usually be given a piece of maths homework, which is given out on a Friday and expected back by the following Thursday, at the latest. The homework is usually a consolidation of the work we have carried out during the week.

It is still extremely important that you continue to read and share books with your child, whether they are reading independently or particularly if they are struggling to read. Lots of children can decode well but it is important that they talk about the stories and words that they read so that they really understand them. It is also vital that your child learn their tables to 12 x 12 including knowing the division facts – this will help them to multiply numbers quickly, divide numbers quickly, spot number patterns, work out fractions of numbers, find percentages, work out areas of shapes etc. Please also make sure that your child is able to read the time on analogue and digital clocks.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to help.

Yours faithfully

Miss Lorna Burrow (Class 5 teacher)