

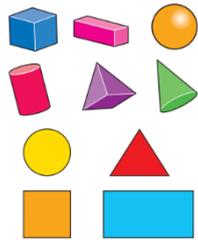


We hope you have all had a lovely half term break. It has been a pleasure to continue to work with the children, it is so lovely seeing them build upon all that we did in Reception and we feel privileged to teach them for another year. We have another busy half term ahead and this newsletter should give you an insight of the exciting things we are up to.

**Maths**

**2D and 3D shapes**

The children will be describing 2D and 3D shapes, looking closely at differences and similarities between the shapes and finishing patterns and sequences with the shapes.



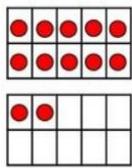
**Addition and subtraction**

The children will be using a range of different ways to represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20

**Numbers to 20**

We will look closely at the place value of each digit, we will be counting in tens and ones and partitioning numbers into tens and ones.

12



twelve

Throughout the maths curriculum the children

will be using different models and representations. They will be using practical objects to support the deepening of their understanding and we will be working on their ability to solve problems and apply reasoning strategies, they will be working on answering 'why' or 'how' an answer was reached.

**English**

We will be looking at texts linked to our topic 'Starry Night' We will be reading stories that are set in space or explore animals that come out in the night (nocturnal). We will end our work this half term looking at writing letters to someone very important who will be visiting on December 24<sup>th</sup> and reading Stickman - which is already one of our favourites!



**Phonics**

We will be continuing 'Phase 5' of phonics programme. In these sessions the children will learn a series of new letter sounds and different ways to make the sounds they have already learnt. For example, they will learn all the different ways to spell the 'igh' sound. For example, we will learn the

words pie, line, spy and final all have the same sound but spelt in different ways. The children will continue to learn how to read and spell tricky words or 'common exception words'.

•	light	time	pie	tight	cries
••	drive	night	fright	bike	lie
•••	tie	replied	fire	fight	kite
••••	prize	sunshine	high	fried	might
•••••	knight	thigh	cried	slide	dried
••••••	tries	five	sight	inside	right

**RE - Our topic for this term is: Mary, Mother of God**

The children will be learning about the story of the Annunciation and the Visitation and say what these stories tell us about Mary, Joseph and Elizabeth. We will be looking at how as Christians we prepare for Christmas and recognising symbols of advent. The children will be learning about the story of the Nativity from the point of view of Mary and answer the question 'What is wonderful about Christmas?'



**Diwali –**

In St Francis class we focus on



celebrations from around the world throughout the year. The first celebration we will be learning about this year is the Hindu festival of Diwali.

**PE – In PE this term we will be learning about:**

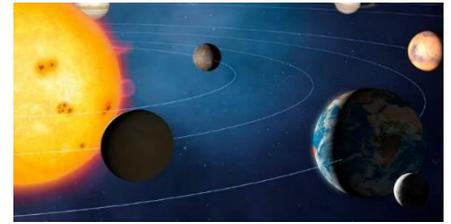
Focusing on basic movement- looking at agility, balance and coordination.

The children will be doing PE led by Mr Gibson. The sessions may be inside our school hall or outside depending on the nature of the lesson and the weather. Our PE day this half term is on a Tuesday and we ask that on that day the children come into school dressed in their PE kits.

The children will be taught in a creative way through **themes and topics**, through a given theme we then cover key skills from all aspects of the National Curriculum.

**Curriculum- This half term our topic is 'Starry Night'**

**History:** - We will be learning about the life of a significant individual in the past by learning about the life of Yuri Gagarin - the first person in space. We will then move on to learning about Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Later on in the unit we will work on our sequencing skills when we will be putting key events of space travel in chronological order. We will be looking at timelines and using vocabulary associated with time order to help us.



**Geography:** - We will be looking at the group of animals that are awake during the night time- 'nocturnal animals'. We will be looking at which nocturnal animals live in our local area and talking about how they are adapted to cope with being awake in darkness.

**Science:** - '**seasonal change**' - We will be looking at how the weather and length of day light will change this half term. We will be observing the changes as we move from Autumn to Winter. We will be collecting data around the weather and learning about **Sir Francis Beaufort** who created a scale that measures the speed of the wind. We will also be looking at how animals adapt to the colder weather as winter takes hold.

**To help your child at home you could -**



- Read the school reading book every day and comment in the reading record as this helps us to see how they are doing at home.
- Encourage the children to learn their spellings that are sent home on a Tuesday. We will start to send home some spelling activity sheets - these are to support you and are not compulsory or needed to be handed back in.
- Read a selection of other books and stories to your child or listen to an audio book together.
- Playing games such as snakes and ladders, bingo and other board games that involve number.

Talk to your child about what they have done at school and about topics in this letter.

**General information**

Outdoor clothing

We do aim to go outside in all weathers. With this in mind we politely ask **every child to bring a warm outdoor coat to school daily and a pair of wellies that can be left in school. Children should also have a hat, scarf and some warm gloves.**

School fruit and milk

We are fortunate that every child is able to have a piece of fruit as their snack in school every day. We do not need you to provide your child with an additional snack.

Please be aware that once your child turned 5 they will no longer receive daily milk unless you subscribe through CoolMilk. Please email the office if you need further details.

**Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office**

**Best Wishes**

**Mrs C Gilhooly and Mrs S Fisher**