



Happy Half Term Holiday!

Well done everyone - we have finally arrived at half term. I know that everyone involved with teaching the children at home or at school are ready to have a break. All of our children, parents and staff should feel very proud of everything that has been achieved in the last 6 weeks. That is 30 days of learning in bubbles or in home schools (is it just me or does it feel longer than that!)

I hope that everyone is able to relax and recharge ready for the next half of the spring term when we hope that all of our children will be able to return to school. While it is lovely to 'see' the children in our virtual assemblies, I can't wait to see them all in person again!

Bug Club and Reading

Following a review of the children's use of Bug Club over the last academic year, the Autumn term, and during the present lockdown, it has been decided that we will no longer subscribe to Bug Club. This has been our online reading platform for the last few years but it is not being accessed by many of our children and is no longer providing good value for money. Our subscription expires on 15th February and from that point, children will not be able to access e-books from Bug Club.

We recognise that some of our children are regularly reading e-books from Bug Club and so we would like to suggest the following websites as sources of online books:

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/?q=&sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1>

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

<https://www.getepic.com/>

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

My thanks to the staff at Cove School for putting together this list (and others) to support their feeder schools. They have created a 'Primary Online Learning' page on their website. The link to this valuable set of learning resources is:

<https://www.coveschool.uk/3219/primary-online-learning>

DIARY DATES

New dates / updates in yellow

Mon 15 th – Fri 19 th Feb	School is closed for the half term holiday
Mon 22 nd Feb	School reopens for Spring 2 (Critical workers and vulnerable children)
Mon 22 nd Feb	Year 6 'hook' for their new topic. Join the virtual meeting at 9:00am and don't forget to bring a carrot!
Mon 22 nd Feb	World Thinking Day (Children can come to school in their Scouting uniforms)
Tues 23 rd Feb	Collection of new reading books 9:30 - 12:00
Wed 24 th Feb	Year 4 Roman Day CANCELLED
Mon 1 st Mar	Notification of Year 7 places for Sept 2021
Thur 4 th Mar	World Book Day Year 3 & 4 virtual assembly @ 1:30pm Year 5 & 6 virtual assembly @ 2:00pm
Tues 16 th Mar	Parents' evening 3:45-5:30pm These meetings will now be virtual (further details to follow)
Thur 18 th Mar	Virtual Parents' evening 3:45-5:30pm
Fri 19 th Mar	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief (further details to follow)
Wed 24 th Mar	Virtual Parents' evening 5:00-7:00pm
Thur 1 st April	School closes for the Easter holiday @ 1:30pm
Fri 16 th April	Notification of Year 3 places for Sept 2021
Mon 19 th April	School reopens for Summer 1
Mon 3 rd May	BANK HOLIDAY
W/b Mon 10 th May	Year 6 SATs Week CANCELLED
W/b Mon 17 th May	Year 6 residential trip to Wales
W/b 24 th May	International Week
Fri 28 th May	Finish for half term @ 3:25pm
Mon 7 th June	INSET DAY – school closed
Tues 8 th June	School reopens for Summer 2
Tues 8 th	Class photos and Year 6

Happy Birthday!

Evie & Lily - 10 years on 14th February

Elisie - 8 years on 17th February

Isobel - 11 years on 17th February

Noah - 8 years on 18th February

Sam and Thomas - 9 years on 18th February

Alexander - 8 years on 22nd February

Lucy - 9 years on 22nd February

Joseph - 9 years on 23rd February

Angelica - 10 years on 23rd February

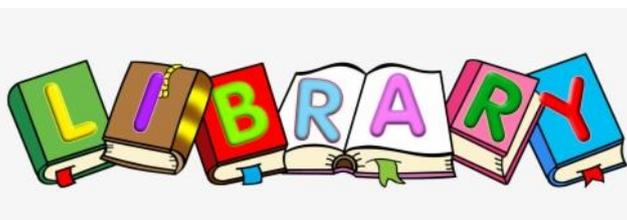
Amelia & Spencer - 9 years on 24th February



Collection of Reading Books

Apologies that we needed to cancel the collection of books this week. Unfortunately, the timing clashed with us closing one of our bubbles at school and for health and safety reasons, we wanted to avoid households mixing.

After the holiday, we would like to invite you to come and collect new reading books for your children on **Tuesday 23rd February between 9:30 and 12:00** from the staff car park.



World Book Day

On Thursday 4th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. The children are able to dress up if they would like to. This could be:

- ~ Full dressing up!
- ~ Creating a book character related mask
- ~ Wear a hat that a character from a book wears
- ~ Bring a favourite book

Whether at home, or at school, the children are all invited to take part in a virtual assembly where they can share their costume, mask, hat or book - or just listen to others sharing their costumes and books.

The children's learning will also link with World Book Day.



Laptops

We still have some laptops that are set up and ready for use. If you would benefit from loaning one of these devices, please let us know.

If your child is accessing Google Classroom through a mobile phone and it would be easier to have a laptop, please get in touch.

We know that some children are sharing devices, so if it would help to have another one, please get in touch.

We can also arrange for support with free internet connections and have many free pre-paid SIM cards left too.



Year 5 Poetry

The children in Year 5 have been writing poetry which has been inspired by their topic about space. The children at school have renamed their classes so here are some poems from Mercan and Vulptor Bubbles! They have also been reviewing the poem 'One Day I'll Be' by the published author James McDonald.

The Breath-taking Night

Everyday my friends go around,
I'm surrounded by billions of stars,
You see them when the moon comes out
But you don't see them when the sun rises.

By Madison

Exploring Outer Space

As a rocket blasts into space,
Earth gets further away.
Going very fast, thinking we will be okay.
Landing on Luna, exploring craters,
As we blast off to the ISS,
We dock-in and see if the people are okay,
As we go into Earth's atmosphere
We say 'Hello' to Earth,
Making a touchdown!

NASA sends up probes
Looking through space,
Looking into atmospheres
Looking for life.
Sending Rovers to Mars,
Looking for space rockets,
Going to exoplanets
Looking for life.
Forty years later,
Returning to NASA
In their hands
Fixing the probes
And sending them off again.
By Oscar

One Day I'll Be

by James McDonald

Today at school my teacher said,
I wonder what you'll be?
When time has passed and you've grown up,
And the world is yours to see.

Right then and there I stood straight up,
And looked her in the face,
And said with pride and confidence,
I plan to live in space.

Like pirates of so long ago,
My ship will take me far,
Around the moon and back again,
And to a distant star.

So when you talk about the world,
And say it's yours to see,
I believe I'll have the greatest view,
Upon the cosmic sea.

Mercan class review of 'One Day I'll Be'

This is an inspirational poem explaining the childhood dreams of a young boy. It is a rhyming poem that explains what he would like to do when he is grown up. When you read this poem, it makes you feel like you're in a happy place. This has been my favourite poem so far!

My rating is ***** and I recommend that you read this poem – it is beautiful.

Vulptor class review of 'One Day I'll Be'

'One Day I'll Be' is a poem about a boy who is asked what he wants to be when he is grown up. It's a wonderful poem because it's so sweet and imaginative. It is fun to read as you can pretend you are the boy. It's great for self-confidence and believing you can follow your dreams. This poem is also perfect for young astronomers but can be read by adults as it takes your mind back to when you were young and thinking about your future job.

Year 5 Space Questions Answered by an Astrophysicist

This term in Year 5, the children have had a great time finding out everything they could about our solar system and what lays beyond it, but they still had some questions. Luckily for them, they were able to get in touch with an expert in all things space: Dr Baudino. He generously agreed to answer a number of the children's questions about space and his special field of study: exoplanets.

Here are just a few of the questions he answered:

How far can people go into space?

Space is 100 km above us, the international space station is 600 km, the farthest away that humanity has gone was the orbit of the Moon. There is no hard boundary for space exploration but for exploration with humans, the problem is the time it takes to travel: years in space would be dangerous for astronauts and a year in space it is basically what would be necessary to send human to Mars and back.

What made you want to be an astrophysicist? Did anyone inspire you?

I loved watching space documentaries and TV shows like the Sky at Night. I was very inspired by André Brahic and Hubert Reeves - they were astrophysicists who were on the TV a lot in France when I was growing up. André Brahic did very fun, very entertaining talks, although they went on for a very long time!

Do you think people will live on different planets?

It is possible to live on other planets in our Solar System but it is very difficult. We are not evolved for those conditions and there is no great reason to live on them at the moment. With current technology it would take 2000 years to arrive at the nearest exoplanet, so we're unlikely to be going there any time soon! Maybe in the faraway future or with a breakthrough in technology, to overcome the vast distances of space.

Dr Baudino also brought to the children's attention that a fantastic art competition is being held by the ESA (European Space Agency.) The 'JUICE up your rocket!' challenge calls all children up to 12 years old to help ESA create an illustration to decorate the huge Ariane V rocket that will launch the JUICE (JUperiter ICy moons Explorer) on its long journey towards planet Jupiter.

https://www.esa.int/kids/en/learn/Our_Universe/JUICE/Juice_Up_Your_Rocket%21_art_competition

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions Dr Baudino!



