

Foxes Spring Term 2019 Newsletter



Welcome back to school!

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and you are all ready for an exciting and jam packed term. This newsletter will fill you in on what to expect in the term ahead. If you have any further questions please ask to meet with any of us.

Topic

Our exciting new topic for this term is **'Space'**.

The children will be learning all about **Space, the planets and famous explorers!**



In **Science** we will explore materials, such as wood, plastic, metal, glass and fabric, through a variety of fun activities that will help children discover all they need to know about different objects and the materials they are made from. We will then use this knowledge to design a spacesuit for an astronaut and conduct an experiment to find the best material to help keep an astronaut warm!

In **History**, we will be looking at two famous explorers Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. We will examine the similarities and differences of these intrepid explorers and understand the importance of their discoveries!

In **Geography** we will be learning about our place in our own planet. We will be

Home Folders

Please continue to keep all your child's reading books, reading logs, maths books etc in their plastic home folder. These folders need to be placed in the classroom box every morning.

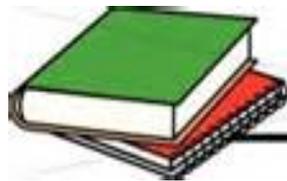
Throughout the week children are heard read and we need to be able to access their current reading book and record it in their reading log. It also means any letters home can be easily put into each folder by a member of staff to ensure they get back to parents safely. Your co-operation with this is appreciated.



Mrs Tucker, Mrs Clark,
Mrs Hughes & Mrs
O'Leary
would like to say a
big...



For all the lovely gifts and presents they received off children and parents at Christmas. We were all



English

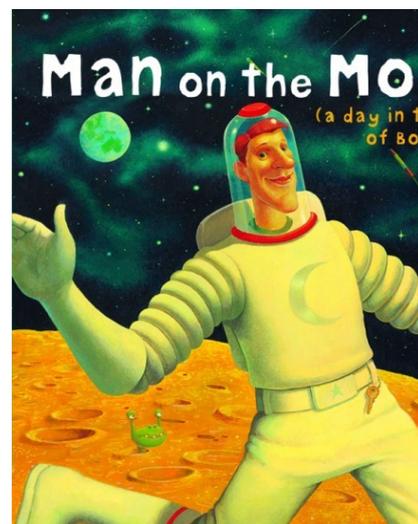


In English, we will continue to develop our writing using the 'Talk for Writing' approach. This term our chosen stories are:

'Man on the Moon (A day in the life of Bob)' and 'Beegu'. We will learn these stories by heart and then use them to change the characters and plots to create their own space themed adventures.

Non-fiction writing will be developed by writing space poems and instruction writing. We will be writing instructions on how to make a 'Claylien'.

Something we have already



What is Talk for Writing?

Talk for Writing (T4W) is an innovative approach to teaching writing developed by the literacy specialist and writer Pie Corbett. It uses high quality model texts to introduce the children to different story/text types which they then learn off by heart and scrutinise with a writer's critical eye.

We learn the underlying structures and the process of planning using story maps. We also learn about the key strategies for creating interesting characters and settings and how to use a range of sentence types to make their writing more interesting.

T4W has three key phases:

1. Imitation and immersion

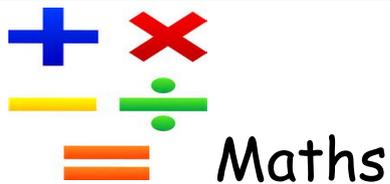
We like to start each story with a 'wow' starter which fires up the imagination of the children before they immerse themselves in the model text. During this phase, we learn the model text using actions and story maps. The key to success is we internalise the text through repetition and rehearsal. We explore the structure of the narrative and investigate different characters, settings and plots. We also look at the language used and the effect this has on the reader.

2. Innovation

During this phase we begin to change aspects of the model text using their own ideas. We may change the character, setting or events and add in new ideas for descriptive language whilst sticking closely to the underlying structure.

3. Invention

During this phase, we plan and write our own stories based on the text type that has been learning. We experiment with ideas and begin to explore their own style of writing. Who knows what may come from their imagination!



In Maths, **year 1** we will be learning how to tell the time, continuing to understand place value, investigating money, length and height and learning fractions of shapes and numbers.

Year 2 we will continue learning multiplication & division, solving 2 step-number problems and problems in context. We will also be investigating and understanding pictograms and statistics.

Times tables and Number Bonds!

We will continue to be tested on number bond facts and times tables on a weekly basis. It is really encouraging to see progress in this area and it helps with calculations in every maths lesson! Please keep encouraging them to learn these facts at home.

Reading Logs

We have been really impressed with the children's reading over the last term so thank you for your continued support with their learning at home! This term we will be focusing on reading comprehension and ensuring we are not only reading the words on a page correctly but also understanding the context of what they read. To facilitate this, guided reading sessions will be every week where they improve their comprehension skills about the given text. You can help your children by asking questions about the book they are reading at home. For example:

Swimming

Swimming will continue to be on a Wednesday afternoon at Blackbrook Pool. We have been working hard on getting changed quickly before and after swimming and hopefully we will continue to improve on this! Please label all swimming wear including hats.

We need parent helpers to join us on swimming days for the new term. Thank you so much to those parents who have volunteered already. Your help is greatly appreciated. If you are able to help on any Wednesday afternoon up until Easter break, please add your name on to the list.

Note to parents: There are many children who still require significant support in the water. Regular swimming outside of school hours whenever possible will help your child progress even quicker. They will love it too!



PE

Mondays and Thursdays - Please ensure your child's PE kit is labelled and they have them in school every day. The children have PE outside whatever the weather. Please ensure your child has a hat, gloves and a warm fleece/hoodie to wear especially - Thank you.



Spellings

Spellings have been improved to help children learn and embed the tricky and common exception words required in the National Curriculum. The children will learn spellings daily with fun tasks from 8.45am. Bringing your child into school for 8.45 will enable them to participate in these tasks to aid progression. Your support in bringing your child in early to assist this greatly appreciated.