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**Voyagers Spring Newsletter**

Dear Parents, I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and great New Year! A huge thank you for all of my thoughtful and yummy gifts!

The children have settled back into school well and are already working hard and impressing me with their knowledge about the solar system!   
  
Our mini adventure this term is called Follow the Stars. This adventure will be sure to excite and engage all of the children!  
The adventure will be based on Astronomy throughout Ancient Civilisations and the effects it had upon them. We will be learning about our planets and stars in our solar system and beyond.  
In addition, we will be following several, shorter mini-adventures all linked to our Stars theme and are planning on investigating The Maya and Aztec civilisations, The Ancient Egyptians, The Ancient Greeks and the Han Dynasty. We may even stay a little longer and learn more during some of these mini adventures depending on the children’s interest.

The children have already started a new book called **Flat Stanley’s Great Egyptian Grave Robbery** and we’ve had lots of interesting conversations about being only 1 and 1/2 inches thick!  
On completion of this we will be moving onto Greek Myths and Legends so we will be reading: **Theseus and the Minotaur, The Midas Touch and The 12 Labours of Hercules.**

Within our Astronomy adventures we will reading T**he Cats Guide to Stars**. This beautiful non-fiction book will complement the children’s learning with beautiful illustrations and a rich use of vocabulary.

With Astronomy and the stars in mind, I thought it would be an exciting opportunity for the Voyagers to have a Star gazing and soup evening at school!  
As you may already know the children were extremely excited about it (although maybe not the soup part)!!  
I am planning on doing this within the next few weeks, while we have early sunsets, but I was hoping that we might have some Astronomy interested Parents or Friends who would enjoy supporting me in finding and identifying the stars in our sky? The children will of course be experts by then so it’s just to give a helping hand!  
I will forward you the details as soon as I have it confirmed.   
We will also be visiting the Life Science Centre in Newcastle later on in the term and I will ensure that you have confirmed details as soon as I can.

The scope for this mini adventure is huge and I am sure you will agree will engage, excite and encourage the children in their lifelong learning!

The year 3 and 4 spellings will continue to be sent home weekly. The National Curriculum requires that these spellings are known by the end of Year 4, so the children will be revisiting and revising them. We will continue, of course to have our spelling tests on a Thursday.  
The children will also bring home a Big Maths Beat That (BMBT) and CLIC homework sheet. The BMBT is a timed challenge, where the children solve the calculation facts as fast as they can. The CLIC sheet challenges the children to complete the calculations by applying the core calculation facts that they know. The children will also complete the BMBT and CLIC challenges in class every Thursday. If your child consistently completes the BMBT challenges in the allotted time, they will progress to the next step. If your child gets 10 out of 10 twice on their CLIC, they will move up to the next step with my hearty congratulations!

**PE**

Mrs Burrows will be leading PE sessions for the children on Wednesday mornings. Please make sure your child has clothing suitable for indoor sessions as the children will be taking part in Space-themed dance sessions.

**Friday Forest Skills**

In forest school this term the children will continue:

* To observe changes in the environment, to look in detail and begin to make comparisons as the seasons change.
* To be knowledgeable about the habits and habitats of animals and birds.
* To understand the importance of taking care of flora and fauna, especially during hibernation and nesting season.

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Paisley