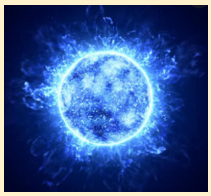
Riverside Primary School

Curriculum Newsletter for Families: November 2026



Year 5

This half term our theme is...

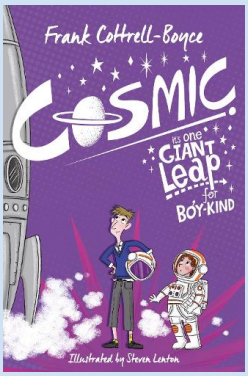
Stargazers



Welcome Year 6 to the second part of the Autumn Term and here is your curriculum update newsletter!

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you all about the exciting half-term ahead. This newsletter is where you can find out all about what your child will be learning over the coming weeks, along with some ideas and suggestions for some activities you could try to support their learning at home.

What are we learning during this theme?



We will be doing lots of learning to get our classes curious about the subject of Space. Your children will learn about how night and day occurs, the planets in the solar system and the movement of the moon. We will then study forces and complete a range of scientific investigations.

In English, children will write a close encounter story, using Alien Landing as a model to develop strong openings, purposeful dialogue and mysterious endings. They will then write a news report on a UFO landing.



Our class reader is Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Reading lessons will use space non-fiction and Cosmic to develop inference, supporting answers with evidence, and prediction.

For PE the children will be undertaking lessons in yoga and hockey this half term. In design and technology the children will be applying their knowledge of pulleys and gears in making moon buggies. In computing, children will investigate how networks help us, including network layouts, IP addresses, viruses, malware, hacking and protection from threats. Online safety will be woven through the unit, with a final Tech for Space lesson.

In PSHE, this unit revisits and builds on prior learning about mental health, exploring how different self-regulation strategies can help shift habitual thoughts and emotions, and support wellbeing. In No Outsiders we are going to be exploring the picture book Rose Blanche by Ian McEwan and Roberto Innocenti.

Trips, Visitors and Experiences

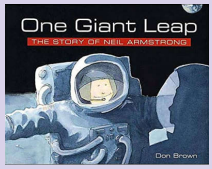
We have planned some exciting visitors and experiences which will help consolidate our theme this half term. We will welcome a travelling planetarium from Starlight Stem, where children will be able to look up at the Milky Way and learn about our solar system. You can

also find more information about our learning on our Medium Term plan and via our Knowledge Organisers, which are available on our school website: https://riversideprimary.co.uk/

How can you support your child at home?

Every week, your child will receive their usual home learning tasks of reading, spelling and writing/maths.

In addition to this, please find some suggestions below on how to support your child's learning. Why not pop to the local library and loan out some books that link to our theme?

Days out and things to do:	Books to read:	Things to watch:
Visit The Science Museum https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/exploring-space-gallery-tour Visit Southend Planetarium Southend Planetarium Make a solar system snow globe! Solar System Snow Globe	The Skies Above My Eyes by Charlotte Gullian  Cakes in Space by Philip Reeve  One Giant Leap: The Story of Neil Armstrong by Don Brown  George's Secret Key to the Universe by Lucy & Stephen Hawking 	Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom CBBC Live Lessons Out of this world Tim Peake - Website NASA Space Club Earth & Space - BBC Bitesize