

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to your children for making me feel so welcome at St. Andrews. I am looking forward to an exciting year with lots of stimulating learning opportunities. This term's topic is called, **"Life, the Universe and Everything"** and a great deal of our learning will be linked to space. Our class text is called **Cosmic, by Frank Cottrell Boyce** and the children are already enjoying the humour of the story! You will see from the termly overview what we are covering in other subjects.

Supporting at home:

Parents often ask how they can support their children at home with their learning. Reading is the most important thing you can do at home with your child. Please continue to read to your child and also discuss their personal reading with them. Reading should be for pleasure so please come and see me if you would like support in choosing books your child may enjoy. Please find below some questions you could ask your child to further develop their reading skills, especially in terms of inference:

- Has the writer succeeded in creating (a setting, mood, character, theme, making you laugh etc.)?
- What else could the writer have done?
- Think about this [passage describing a particular event] – what is the atmosphere before and after [the event]?
- Which words, phrases or punctuation give you evidence for this?
- Has the writer been successful?
- Who is the "voice" in the text?
- What happens if we change the "voice"?
- Which character does the writer want you to like or dislike?
- How has the writer done this?
- Has the writer succeeded?
- What do you think could be the motive for [a character] to do or say something?
- How do you know?
- What do you think will happen because of [a character's] actions, dialogues or thoughts?
- Why do you think [a character, setting or event] is important?

Key number facts and mental maths skills are also important. One way of practising these is playing family board games, especially ones involving money, e.g. Monopoly, Game of Life etc. There are also lots of online games which children enjoy playing. Please also continue practising times tables, especially speed of recall. Please find a few website suggestions below:

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-and-sequencing-numbers>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>
- <https://mathsframe.co.uk/>
- <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html>
- <http://www.primarygames.com/math.php>

Home Learning:

Home learning is designed to build on or prepare for learning in class as well as to be fun. Please support and encourage your child with tasks set. I will ask for your feedback a few times a year on pieces set to help us to set home learning which is right for our families. You will have already received this term's tasks. Please see the top of the sheet for more information. In addition to this, your child will also receive ten weekly spellings to practise. Inside their spelling book are ideas for how to do this. The spellings will always be a mixture of the statutory spellings for years 5 and 6 as well as some words which follow the spelling pattern for the week that we have covered in class.

Equipment etc.:

As always, we need your children to come to school well rested, eager to learn and with the appropriate clothing/equipment. Now your children are in years 5 and 6, we would ask that you encourage them to be more independent in managing their belongings and organising themselves. We will also support them with this.

PE days are currently **Thursday and Friday** but please make sure your child's PE kit is in school at all times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. Your children and their well-being and happiness are my number one priority.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sarah Woodcock