Into the Darkness

Year 5 Learning Newsletter | Autumn 2

Hook

'Into the Darkness' takes the children on a journey into space. We are launching the topic with a variety of activities linked to space.

During the day, the children will be creating auroras (The Northern Lights) using pastels. These will be used to create our very own planetarium for our outcome.

The children will learn about a British astronaut, Major Tim Peake, who spent time on the ISS.

The children will also be introduced to the book 'The Jamie Drake Equation' and 'The Atlas of Space Adventures' which are our rich reads for the half term.

Main Focus

- **English:** where the children will be producing their own non-chronological report linked to a newly discovered planet.
- **Science:** where the children will learn about the Earth, Sun, Moon and the other planets in our Solar System.
- **Art:** where the children will create 3D papier-mache planets.
- **Music:** where the children will compose a piece of music linked to the planet they create in Art. They will use 'The Planets' by Holst as their inspiration.
- **Computing:** where the children will create a new planet using AI.



Outcome

Throughout the topic, the children will gradually contribute further resources to their planetarium. This includes 3D planet collages, projections of computer animations, 'planets' music playing in the background and non-chronological reports. Each class will have time to share their work in the planetarium.

They will then share some of their work and what they have been getting up to with Year 3.

ABBOTSWOOD Junior School

Learning Experiences

- **English:** investigating features of non-chronological reports, the use of scientific language, ordering and justifying ideas, role play (alien invasion) using facts and information they have learnt.
- **Science:** working in groups to explore the movement of the Earth to create day and night, exploring the different planets in our Solar System and the Moon.
- **Art:** working in groups to design a planet linked to emotions, using papier-mache and paint techniques to create a 3D planet.
- **Music:** learning to read basic music notation and create rhythms, playing tuned instruments.
- **Computing:** learning what AI is by exploring different AI software. This will lead onto using Google Gemini to create a new planet and present it using Pxlir.

The following are not linked to the topic:

- **PSHE:** considering what makes relationships healthy, discussing how to keep each other safe and respecting others.
- **RE:** thinking about prophecy in relation to The Magi.



School Trip to Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium!

Topic Words

space, cosmic, galaxy, planet, Universe, Earth, science, gravity, orbit, rotation, Solar System, forces, journey, explorer





Home Learning

In Upper School, your child has two weekly home learning tasks:
1) Reading - due every Tuesday
2) Times Tables - due every Tuesday

To complete the Space Race, they will need to read three times a week and record it in their reading diary. For times tables, they will need to play at least five games a week on TTRS.

If your child enjoys 'Jamie Drake', they may also like these!







