

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Term 4 of Primary 1. Inspired by Tim Peake, we began to learn all about space last term. We explored a variety of sources, such as non-fiction texts and video and sound clips to find out facts about the Sun, Earth and Moon. We worked collaboratively across both P1 classes to discover and share facts about one of the planets in our solar system. We enjoyed lots of writing activities linked to space, such as planet and moon descriptions. Another highlight of our space topic was comparing how we carry out simple daily activities such as eating and sleeping, to how an astronaut carries out the same activities on the International Space Station. We are looking forward to revisiting our learning when the Cosmos Planetarium visits Mid Calder on 26th April. In other exciting news, a special delivery has arrived from Tim Peake himself: rocket seeds from the International Space Station to help the children participate in Tim’s Rocket Science Experiment!

Mrs Smith P1a Teacher

**Primary 1 Learning Letter: Term Four**

April 2016

**Maths & Numeracy**

We will continue to develop and apply number strategies to solve increasingly challenging problems. The children will also develop their understanding of symmetry.

In addition, we will begin to explore directions and coordinates. As well exploring maps, we will use programmable toys called Beebots. The children will have opportunities to apply this learning during orienteering games.

This term will also be a valuable opportunity

to consolidate time and money ahead of P2.

**English & Literacy**

This term the children will continue to progress their phonological awareness, blending, word and sentence building, and apply these skills to increasingly challenging activities. Reading and writing common words will continue as a target for all P1 pupils this term.

Through the context of our new topic, ‘In the Garden’, we are looking forward to developing our non-fiction writing. We will explore lists, directions, and descriptions as well as reporting experiment results.

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**Interdisciplinary Learning: In the Garden**

Inspired by the Rocket Science Experiment, the children have chosen to learn all about the plants and animals we find in our gardens. We will begin this week by creating a 3D mind map to discover all of the things that we already know about gardens and all of the things that we would like to find out. One of the first things we will do is plant our rocket seeds, and record their progress. We are excited to find out what impact zero gravity has had on the seeds. Some children have predicted that they might even float away!

**Homework**

Homework is set on a Monday and should be handed in completed on a Friday. Please practise reading and writing common words as often as possible. Games like snap and pairs, or writing the words using multisensory materials can make homework more fun.

**S.T.E.M**

As well as our STEM-based (Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths) topic ‘In the Garden’, we will investigate staying safe at home and when out and about.

**Additional Information**

This term our specialist teacher is Mrs Vest who will be teaching Art.

We will have P.E. on Monday, Thursday and Friday. We will continue to participate in Enjoy-a-Ball sessions with Kevin, and explore orienteering and athletics with both P1 classes