



BROOK INFANT SCHOOL

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We all hope that you had a super break at half term and had some valuable family time. I am writing this before the announcement from Boris Johnson on Monday. We are keeping our fingers crossed that all children will be back on the 8th March and life can get back to some normality. However, we are ready for both options, as we know you are.

We are very pleased that NASA's Perseverance landed on Mars last week, as it is perfect timing for the next part of our learning. (We would like to think that we planned it this way!) So we are leaving the moon and going into outer space, looking at our solar system and then we will imagine our own discovery rovers find a distant planet to investigate.

Early Morning Challenges

We are mixing up our early morning challenges this week and we are going to focus on common exception words. Our aim is to get these words embedded by the end of the year. While we appreciate some children already write some of these confidently, many children are used to using their phonic knowledge to spell all words and unfortunately, these don't follow the rules! So we have to try and learn them by practising them again and again. We have a lovely 'Spelling Menu' to share with you, to try and make this process more fun and memorable. If your child can write all common exception words confidently, they could practise using them in sentences.

Maths

For the next two weeks we will be revisiting measure. The last time we covered this area of maths was exactly a year ago, before the first lockdown! Therefore, we will start by using non-standard units before using a ruler. If you have a ruler at home that could support this learning, that would be great. A measuring tape will also come in handy! If you don't, let us know and we can put one in your rover resource pack for you to borrow. Once we have the hang of measuring length and height accurately using centimetres, a standard unit of measurement, we will then move onto metres. We will even touch on KM!

Topic/ Continuous provision

Miss Brain and Miss Smith will be working on our topic focus for the next two weeks. Inspired by the Mars landing, we will be making our own discovery rover. We will be looking at how a non-maned rocket can get into space and land without a human guiding it down! This week the children will be designing their rover and we will make it during the following week. On Thursday, we will lay out resource packs with the reading books. These packs are for the children who are working at home to collect. Each pack will contain a set of dowelling rods and

wheels and some other resources that you might like to use. Miss Brain and Miss Smith will talk you through making the basic platform, with axels and moving wheels, upon which the children will design their own features and gadgets. Over half term we have had a go at creating a few prototypes and although there will be a piece of card in the pack, we will suggest using either the lid of a shoe box or the side of a cereal box as the base, so if you have one put it aside ready!

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to what the next two weeks hold for all our children's learning.

	Early Morning Challenge	Literacy Focus	Maths Focus	Topic	Other Suggestions
Monday					
Tuesday	Common exception words practice - Choose 5 a day.	Phonics - recapping on previous learnt suffixes	Looking at non-standard measures - how can you measure items in your house using non-standard measuring.	Reading of the story 'Curiosity' Art - creating Mars using printing with various objects around the house	Learn the measurement song - Measurement Song - Bing video Start researching 'Perseverance.' What does it look like? What features does it have? How long did it take to get to Mars? Who built it?
Wednesday	Common exception words practice - Choose 5 a day.	Phonics - looking at adding er to base words to use this to compare - e.g. small - smaller	Standard measuring - using rulers and centimetres. Measuring items around your house.	Design and Technology - designing your Mars Rover - looking at features you would add. Science - exploring friction	Play the measurement game - Measuring in Centimetres (topmarks.co.uk) Start collecting pictures for your design of your own rover - put these in your collection book.
Thursday	Common exception words practice - Choose 5 a day.	Phonics - looking at est to use for comparing. Small - smaller - smallest. Research Mars and find facts to add to your artwork.	Standard measuring in metres. How we measure items that are longer.	RE - religious stories that have a moral message (David and Goliath) PSHE - this term we are focusing on our right to be safe and healthy. We will be looking at who and how we call when we need help in an emergency.	Write your own moral story. Practice learning your address and telephone number so that you could use it if you needed. Have a listen to 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst'. Which planet do you like the most? Does it make you want to do anything? Can you recognise any instruments being played?
Friday	Common exception words practice - Choose 5 a day.	Phonics - recap of er and est suffixes	Estimating - making your best guess as how long objects are? Then actually measuring accurately.	Handwriting - looking at joins to add to our ever growing script. Looking at how to make your descenders join seamlessly.	Use your learning of est and er to make some statements up for your measurements.