

# Year 1 Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Spring Term 1  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
To  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

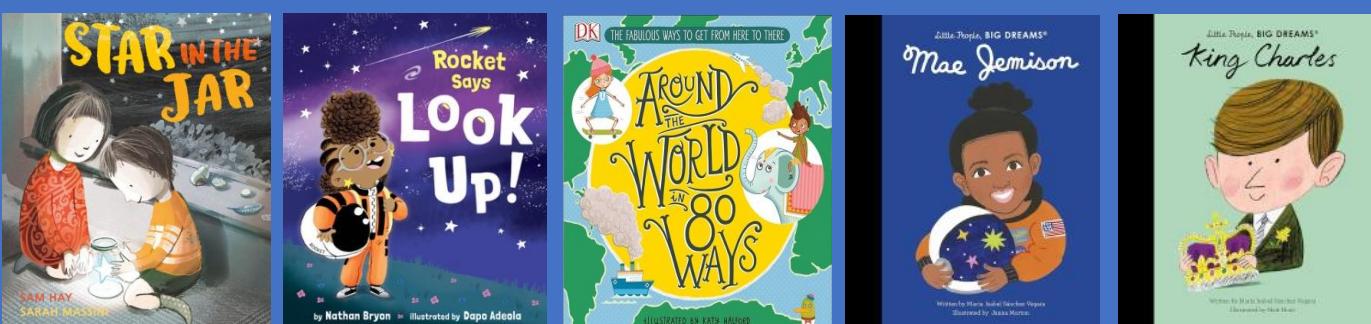
## Theme – Blast Off!

We are very excited to be back after a lovely first term and hope you feel refreshed and ready for the Spring Term! Our topic theme for this half term is called Blast Off!

We will start the term by sharing the story 'Star In The Jar' by Sam Hay and Sarah Massini. The children will learn all about a fallen star that is found by a small boy. The story is a warm hearted and enchanting story that celebrates the rewards of true friendship. What would you do with a fallen star? They will be learning about the language and vocabulary that is used in stories and the children will write their own stories based on the Star In The Jar.

Along our learning journey this half term, the children will learn about stars, Space and planet Earth. We will also be reading other books along a similar theme: The Girl who Stole the Stars, My Pet Star and How to Catch a Star. Our class novels will be Look Up! by Nathan Bryon and Around the World in 80 ways by DK Publishing.

### What will we read this half term?



### Our School Values

Achieve      Care      Value      Listen      Help

This term, we will be looking at our "Achieve" and "Care" school values. We will be reading the "Little People, Big Dreams" books about Mae Jamieson and King Charles III. We will learn about how Mae Jamieson became the first black woman to travel into Space and how King Charles always knew he had one big job to do which is a passion for caring for the environment.

### What will we learn this half term?

**Please note that all of the Curriculum Overviews for each subject can be found on the school website. These contain detailed outlines of the coverage and rationales for teaching. Please take time to read them.**

## **English**

In English, we will be looking at the book *Star In The Jar*. The children will learn about a fallen star and about a little boy whose job it is to get the star back up to the sky with its friends. The children will take part in drama activities. The children will be learning about adjectives and we will be using Talk For Writing to create a new story based on *Star In The Jar* where the children will be writing their own stories. The children will learn to recognise story book language and begin to use it in their own writing. We will also develop our oracy skills and vocabulary development. The children will take part in lots of speaking and listening activities, including retelling the story, sharing ideas with our partners, learning new vocabulary and talking about the characters' feelings. We will be developing confidence in speaking, listening carefully to others and using full sentences to explain our thoughts. We will also use drama techniques to retell and act out the story and hotseat the characters. We will hold 'A Big Debate' about 'Should Stars be kept in Space?'.



We will move onto looking at the British Stargazer Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Mae Jamieson. The children will continue to learn their Read, Write Inc Phonics and will be learning their Set Two and Set Three sounds.

## **Maths**

This term in maths the children will be learning about Place Value and understanding the value of the teens numbers. During this half term we will be learning about:

- tens and ones
- partitioning numbers
- comparing numbers
- using the mathematical language greater than, less than and equal to
- ordering numbers.



There will be daily opportunities to solve problems in maths lessons and most importantly through play. Our maths area will support problem solving and give the children a chance to practice their new learning independently using familiar resources.

## **Science**

In Science, we will be learning about materials and linking our Science learning to our English text *The Star In The Jar*. We will also be finding a material that would be suitable for a trip to space!



## Research Topic

This half term we will be learning to be Geographers in Geography. We will use Google Earth to look at what Earth looks like from Space and the UK. This will link to our English text Star In a Jar. We will also be learning about the UK and its capital cities.



## Computing

We will be continuing our Computer lessons on Fridays. In the last term, the children have learnt about the different parts of a computer and have learnt keyboard skills. The children now have their own Google logins and will be learning to get used to logging onto Google. The topic this half term is: How can we paint using Computers? The children will learn to create pictures using a paint package.



## RE

In RE we will be learning about Judaism. We will be making our own Mezuzahs and understanding about the Jewish Faith. We will look at significant events in different faiths. We will also compare different religious buildings and religious artefacts.



## Art

We will develop our observational drawing skills this half term. Children will use a range of tools, investigating how texture and colour can be created in drawing. We will learn about the art created by Kandinsky. We will then move onto painting and colour mixing in the style of Clarice Cliff.



## PSHE

In PSHE we will be learning about Dreams and Goals. We will explore our aspirations, how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this.

## Music



This half term, our Music Topic is called Tempo and Dynamics. The children will use instruments to combine pulse, rhythm and pitch.

## PE

Our PE day is Tuesday and Friday until February half term. We alternate the Tuesday PE with Forest School. Our PE Topic is Dance. We will be participating in dance and learning the sequence of movement.



Please ensure all your child's PE kit is back in school and has their name in every item. Please check that their names have not washed out. All children need black pumps.

## **Homework – Home Reading Book, Home Phonic Lessons with QR Codes.**

It is extremely important that the children read at home each night for five minutes in order for them to become successful at reading. Reading is a skill and children need daily practise. We would like to remind parents that your child needs to read the whole book at least three times in a week, then discuss events and characters from the book with you.

This half term, the children will bring home new links to Read, Write Inc sounds. These lessons have a QR Code and the children can watch them on a mobile or tablet. This term the children learn their Set Three sounds and continue to revise their Set Two sounds.

At this age too, the children need to read other quality picture books and that they hear their parents read to them at bedtime frequently. Reading for pleasure and finding enjoyment in books is very important. The children will visit our School Library each and will keep this book in school.

Oxford Owl is a website that has free e-reading books for the children including Read, Write Inc books. Please create a free login on the parents page on this site and help your children to read the storybooks on there. Their address is: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/> or Google Oxford Owl free e-books parent page.

All reading books should be kept in the plastic folder that they are sent home in.

### **Thank you**

We really look forward to our second term and working with you. The children are making lots of progress and we thank you for your wonderful support with reading and helping your child to learn their phonic sounds!

If you need to get in touch, please speak to us on the classroom door or telephone the school office, or alternatively email school at [admin@aldwyn.victoriusmat.org](mailto:admin@aldwyn.victoriusmat.org)

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, Mrs Parks and Mrs Parkes