

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what promises to be an excellent year in the Star Room. I hope you have all had a restful and rejuvenating summer holiday and are ready for the excitement and challenges that the new academic year will bring. Michael will again be the Star Room teacher alongside our new TA, Christian.

This is the final term before the children sit for exams. Consequently, the work is focused and expectations are high. For the whole of the autumn term, the children will be sitting a weekly exam paper, alternating between maths and English. This will allow them to hone their exam techniques and become increasingly familiar with how to tackle some of the extremely challenging questions. Robert will go through the maths papers, and Michael will go through the English papers, along with providing written feedback.

If we have any particular concerns regarding your child's progress we will inform you immediately. Similarly, please feel free to write messages in their Reading Record if you have any questions or comments you wish to share about any area whatsoever. Please note that **completed** exam papers will be sent home at half term and Christmas.

Please see below the topics we will be covering in the autumn term.

Science - Earth and Space

The children will be exploring the planets and forces in the universe, such as gravity. They will also be looking at ways humans have ventured into space, such as rockets and space stations.

History - Victorians

We will be exploring Victorian life in London, and the growth (and decline!) of the British Empire.

Literacy

We are mainly studying fiction this term, focusing on the viewpoint of different texts, character development and active and passive sentences. In order to perfect our all-important reading skills for the exams, we will also be doing "Daily 5" literacy, which helps the children to engage critically with books they are reading. We will also be tackling some poetry, as well as our usual focus on creative writing each week.

Other information you may find useful is:

- Sports still takes place every Wednesday and children must wear trainers.
- Swimming is on Thursday mornings (starting from Thursday 20th September).
- Tennis is on a Friday afternoon and children need a racket and trainers.

Your support is much appreciated and please do let us know if you have any questions.

Best Wishes,

Michael and Christian