



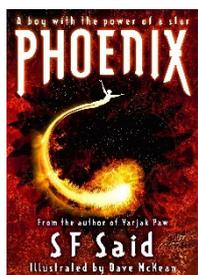
Welcome back Otters and Pine Martens!

After a refreshing break we hope you are all raring to go. Here is a brief overview of **Autumn Term 1 2018**:



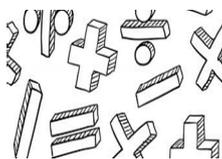
TOPIC: Until Christmas, our exciting topic is 'A Space Odyssey'. This half term we will explore the planets in our solar system, focussing on the Earth, sun and moon, day and night, the seasons and understand the terms latitude and longitude. There will be many opportunities for art, investigations and writing. As an

exciting 'Wow' starter, we will have a visit from **Explorer Dome on Wednesday 12th September**. Please see the separate letter for full details.



ENGLISH: Our English is based on the stunning novel 'Phoenix' by S.F. Said. We will develop narratives, poetry and non-fiction pieces based on the text, pictures and film clips. The book also forms the basis for our daily **whole-class guided reading sessions** where we will explore the story in further detail through drama, discussion and by honing our inference skills.

All children should be reading at home. After lunch every day we have a 15 minute **silent reading session** and strongly encourage the children to bring in their current home reading book. Please check the website for author and book recommendations (<https://www.thetynings.co.uk/children-and-classes/upperKS2>). **Grammar skills and spelling sessions** (known as SPaG) take place daily with weekly **spelling tests on Fridays**. Please check the website for spelling lists. Wrong spelling words from the morning's test will be corrected by your child during Friday lunchtime.



MATHS: We will focus on

Place value, rounding, negative numbers and mental strategies for addition and subtraction. All of the skills will be taught then applied to solving multi-step word problems. There will also be lots of input on mental agility – so get practising with your times tables, number bonds, mental addition and subtraction etc. **Times table tests will be on Fridays**. Remember to use Mathletics at home.



P.E. Please ensure you have your **complete named kit at all times** (shorts, house T-shirt, trainers/daps, tracksuit bottoms and jumper for outdoor lessons). Girls' hair **MUST** be tied back and all jewellery, including stud earrings, removed or covered with tape. We will have one weekly outdoor session with a **sports coach on Thursdays** and an indoor session for gymnastics/ dance on Tuesdays.



From **Monday 1st October**, weekly **swimming sessions** will begin at Kingswood Leisure Centre. Please ensure your child has their complete swim kit (costume, towel, goggles if required, each Monday in a waterproof bag/ backpack).

PPA: Mrs Say will cover PPA with the sports coach on Thursday mornings. She will be taking the class for forest school, French or R.E.



WATER BOTTLES: Our brains will be challenged in Year 5! Please bring a **full water bottle** in every day to keep you alert and hydrated.



HOMEWORK PROJECT

As well as weekly spelling and times tables, we would like the children to take on a 'project' which they can present to the class.

Our project title is '**An Alien world**'. The children are free to interpret and present this in any way they choose. It could be a model of a new planet, an explanation of the world's rules, a model/ diagram of an alien, a lesson on alien language...Let your imaginations run wild! If possible, we would rather not have power point presentations. We will ask for the projects to be handed in and presented to the class the week before half term (w/c 22nd October).

AND FINALLY...It may feel a bit daunting moving into Upper Key Stage 2. Please do not hesitate to see us if you have any problems or concerns.

We are really looking forward to an amazing year!

Mrs Ponsford (Pine martens) and Miss Hudson (Otters)

Dates for your diary:

Mon 3rd Sept INSET

Tues 4th Sept INSET

Wed 5th Sept Autumn Term 2018 starts

Wed 12th Sept Explorer Dome school visit

Mon 1st October weekly swimming sessions begin

w/c Mon 22nd October homework projects to be handed in