



WOW is the word that comes to mind when I think about this term. What an OUTSTANDING start to the year - it honestly could not have gone better. Again, thank you to every single person in our community - we have all worked together to achieve the unachievable. We have accomplished so much this term including some amazing (and some questionable) shelters made from sustainable materials in our very first STEAM project. Well done to all the children, teachers and parents who supplied the materials (you can stop bringing in milk bottles now :) ) but the biggest congratulations goes to Seacole Class who have won overall. Thank you to Mr Butler for being our independent expert for judging the projects and who will set to work with the winning class in January in building a robust/permanent shelter made from sustainable materials with Seacole. In addition, the Seacole Class get to hold the coveted STEAM CUP for the whole of the Christmas Term and they also receive a STEAM T-shirt to keep.

We can now announce, with HUGE excitement that the STEAM project for Term 2 is... (drum roll please?)...SPACE - THE FINAL FRONTIER!! Please be warned we did a cracking job in assembly today in whipping the kids up into a very excitable frenzy about space, so you may be involved in lots of 'space' conversations over half-term! We have an incredible line-up for the children after half-term, we have visits to Wykham Academy to see the UK's first school-based VR suite where they will have a very life like experience of what it's like to be in space, we are building our entire solar system, we are designing and building a rocket and we are making mini-rockets which we will actually launch...the list is endless. In amongst all that is of course the crazy of Christmas! Yes...I said it...the C word! All the dates have been set for nativity production (which is of course space themed), a carol concert, our very popular family Christmas lunches, the Christmas fayre and the grand finale...a tour for parents (led by your children) of the solar system we have created in our very own William Morris planetarium. We have enlisted the help of some year 9, 10 and 11 science and physics students to help build our planetarium but we always look for more volunteers! If you think you could lend a hand and fancy getting involved in 'space', then please let your class teacher know. Have a fab half-term and may the force be with you.



**PARENT PLEA:** We would be grateful if parents could bring in as many egg cartons and newspapers you can spare as we will need them for our next STEAM project. Thank you for your support in this.

**Darwin:** This week we have been learning about forms of transport that fly in the sky. The children have been thinking about the 'Value of the Month' and been showing real 'determination' in their Art work, as they have been making hot air balloons out of Papier Mache. They spent a long time getting very messy- sticking on the paper and painting over the top. Once the basket is fitted they will be hanging up in our classroom, so do come along and have a look!

Darwin Class have been thinking about what it would be like to travel up in the sky and took a vote on their favourite mode of transport. Most children would love to travel in a hot air balloon, closely followed by a Spaceship! As the theme of Space seemed very popular, we will be learning more about this after half term.

**Kadinsky:** We had a very successful art exhibition afternoon on Monday this week. Thank you to everyone who came. The pupils were proud to celebrate all of their art work related to our Enchanted Woodland topic and homework. The children demonstrated determination to complete our reading shelter and are enjoying reading in it! We have been working very hard on our recounts using time connectives to write how we made it in Literacy. We have drawn story maps to retell the story of Hansel and Gretel. Using story mountains we have identified the main parts of the story and created a Gingerbread art picture collage of our own houses. In maths, we have been counting forwards and back in twos and using equipment to demonstrate this. We have also been using the phrases I support or I challenge when explaining our answers to identify more, less than or equal to questions.

**Seacole:** We have shown great determination this week when completing our reading shelter. They worked great as a team to overcome problems and showed real resourcefulness. In literacy this week we have been planning and writing our own stories based on the Anthony Browne's story of the Tunnel. Children have made great predictions about where the tunnel might lead to and have used this to help them in their writing. In maths we have been looking at what happens when we add and take away 2 in a sequence. The children were very quick at spotting lots of different patterns. It was lovely to see parents join us for an open afternoon this week. Seacole class loved showing off their work and the parents even got stuck in with helping us build the tallest tower using only straws and blue tack.

**Valentina:** We were so excited to welcome some of our families into Valentina class this week! We finished our topic with a fact file about killer whales which we got to show off, along with our predator eyes art which is our favourite piece of work this term. We have shown great determination to complete our assessments at the same time as finishing off our shelter! Our teamwork and engineering skills have become really advanced. Fingers crossed for the results of the shelter competition!

**DaVinci:** DaVinci Class have shown great determination this week to add the final touches to their shelter, they tackled structural problems really well, troubleshooting problems as they went. Another highlight of the past week has been making our Canopic jars. These were jars the ancient Egyptians used to store the organs they removed from bodies about to be mummified. Although our jars don't contain anything like that, we have tried to make them as realistic as possible with the lids resembling jackals or falcons. The children carefully designed, then made their pots out of clay. After waiting for them to dry, we will add paint in the style of the Ancient Egyptians.

**Shakespeare:** Shakespeare class have had a brilliant week. They have written outstanding biographies about the life of Charles Darwin and created sketches of the man himself. We have made detailed clay models of the Galapagos turtles and are looking forward to painting them. The children have enjoyed putting the finishing touches to their animal friendly shelter and we are VERY pleased with the final results.



**Baby congratulations:** We are delighted to announce that Miss Cumming has had a lovely baby boy! Our warmest congratulations to her family and a big welcome to the new addition.

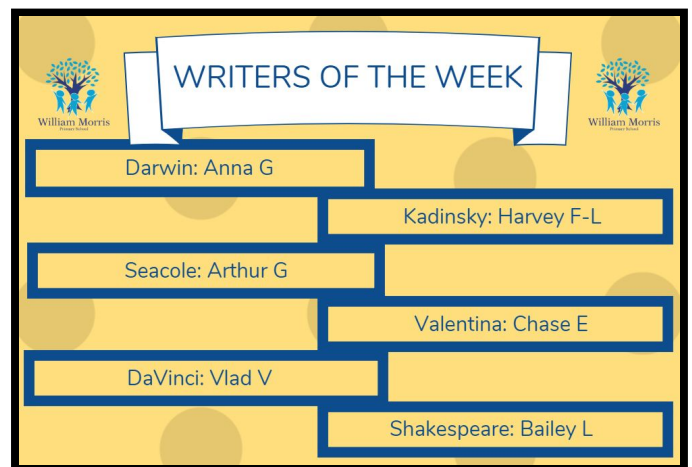
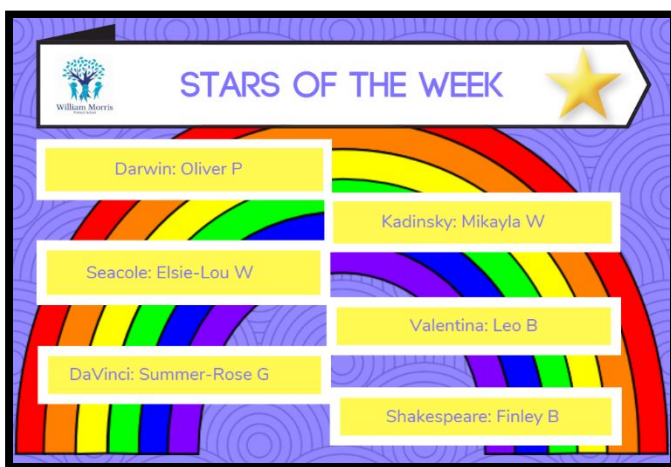
## Key Dates for your Diary:

- **INSET Day – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October**
- Parents evenings: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October (3:15-5:00pm) and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November (4:00-7:00pm)
- School Opens – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Have a fantastic half-term!

*Hiddleston*

*Julie Hiddleston and the school team*



# Winter Term Activities

## Dates for your diary

### **Friday 7th December**

2:00pm Parents are invited to see the results of our second STEAM project "Space the Final Frontier"

### **Thursday 11th December** **EYFS Christmas production**

1:30pm and 6:00pm performance to parents/carers

### **Tuesday 18th December** **EYFS/Y1/Y2**

12:00pm Christmas lunch with parents/carers

### **Wednesday 19th December** **Y3/Y4**

12:00pm Christmas lunch with parents/carers

### **Thursday 20th December** **Y5/Y6**

12:00pm Christmas lunch with parents/carers

### **Thursday 20th December**

2:15pm Carol Service, parents/carers are invited to join us

### **Friday 21st December**

1:00pm School finishes