

# GOTHAM CLASS NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2024

## Road Trip USA



1839 + Bures School

## Gotham City Class Newsletter

**GEOGRAPHY:** The theme for this term is the Continent of North America – which takes in far more than just the USA. We will be looking at the climate, and physical and human geography of this vast and dynamic part of the world. This allows us to look at the NASA Space Missions which links with our science – studying space. Our writing will be based on books which have a link to space, the first one being “Cosmic”, and the film “The Martian”.

Science	Space - the solar system and its effects on Earth	Art	Exploring the installation art of Yayoi Kusama, being inspired by her “dottiness”! Looking at her infinity room links wonderfully to our study of space.
French	At School; Directions; Conversation	RE	The Islamic Faith - Revelation
Computing	Emojis, Phishing	Writing	Narrative, biography and reports.
D&T	Monitoring devices	P E	Hockey with SCS coaching staff (Thursday) and Netball
PSHE	Working World; Stopping Sexism	History	Windrush

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### Welcome Back to the second term of Year 5!

Happy New Year to you all – and thank you for your kindness and generosity at Christmas. I hope you all enjoyed some quality family time and that the children are ready for the thrills of a New Year and new learning!

### The class team...

**Mrs Baker** will continue to lead the class with support from **Mrs Angier** in the mornings and **Mrs Bodi** in the afternoons. **Ms Pope** provides cover on Wednesdays when I am not in class. She knows the children very well.

We will continue to focus on listening skills and working collaboratively throughout all lessons. Our three school rules of **Ready, Respect, and Responsibility** will continue to be key in our approach to the school day, with a “Glory board” to recognise those children “caught doing the right thing”.

The children will now be used to the expectations and routines of Year 5, which I know felt a bit of a jump up from Year 4. We will continue to study English and maths in the mornings, with science, ICT, RE, PE, art, music, history, geography and PSHE in the afternoons.

We will begin by building on previous learning in maths and knowing all your times tables thoroughly for quick recall is absolutely essential from now on. Please help your child at home by going over times tables, a little at a time and often. We will be covering multiplying three-digit numbers by two-digit numbers and moving into long division – and so counting on their fingers will slow the children down.

In writing we will be covering a range of fiction and non-fiction writing, based on a broad range of stimuli. Reading will be delivered following the Success for All format encouraging the children to read for meaning and analyse a variety of text in order to answer a mix of question styles. The emphasis is very much on quality over quantity and the children have already shown promising signs of adapting to this new format during the first term. We will build on this experience and develop our grammar and composition skills further.

Your child’s progress can only benefit by you being involved and being an active partner with the teaching team. We welcome your communications, but would request that you **arrange a meeting with the class teacher via the school office in advance, as your first point of contact**. Messages via the planners are a quick and simple form of contact for less sensitive issues (just tell your child to show it to me, please!). The day most suitable for meetings with me after school is Monday for year 5 children’s parents.

### How you can help at home...

You can help to support your child’s education in the following ways:

**Sleep** – plenty of it and preceded by a quiet and calm atmosphere, without any electronic gadgets, - a shared bedtime story is so much better! It has been proven that after watching any screen (including TV) it can take up to an hour for a child’s brain activity to slow back down to normal levels, ready for sleeping.

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**Helping your child to be independent** and get their own belongings ready for each school day will encourage the right mind-set while at school too, as well as making mornings calm. Star charts and lists can really help. Arriving promptly at school in the mornings will help the children to prepare for the day and be ready to learn, sitting in their seats, by 8.50am to do their Early Work. Please make sure that they arrive at the school gate in time to facilitate this.

**Please note: Children must not bring any items into school, in order to help keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible, unless the teacher is informed in advance and it is for educational purposes.**

Try to seize any small pockets of time for **spellings or times tables practice**. A little and often is so much better than one long session and can be worked easily around normal family routines. Spelling homework is issued weekly with a few opportunities to use the words each week in class to help retain their new spellings. Spellings may vary between children, as they will be generated by monitoring your child's work during their literacy group, in addition to the National Curriculum lists for year 5. Grammar sheets will also be sent home on a weekly basis, along with maths. They will have a folder to keep them in. Please be aware of the homework set by checking in their folders, and make sure the children give it the appropriate time and attention. I would rather see what your child can genuinely do unaided, so please only give verbal prompts if they get stuck. If you need to let me know of any homework issues, a brief note in their planner would be the best method. I will be available in Thursday lunchtimes for homework club, if needed.

It is now more important than ever to encourage your children to master their times tables. Knowing **all** their times tables will allow your children to access the work in year 5 and then year 6 far more readily. They are an essential foundation. Your assistance in this will pay huge dividends in future learning. Checks on their progress will be carried out.

### Timetable

Please be aware, due to the nature of all that goes on at a primary school, timetables may change! Science, computing and humanities are included in afternoon sessions. PE will be on Mondays (Netball) and on Thursdays (with SCS coaching – hockey). Children should come in full uniform on these days with PE kit in a bag. Boys and girls will change separately at the beginning and end of each lesson.

### Things to remember...

- Be ready for PE on Thursdays with SCS Coaching (hockey on the school field).
- Homework is set on Monday and is to be completed by the next Monday lunchtime.

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- Snacks should be of **fruit only** – fresh or dried – but not processed foods. Please ensure that they are in a separate container from any packed lunch box/bag and **small** enough to be stored easily in the locker.
- If the weather stays mild, we will make more use of the school field during lunchtimes. Please consider preparing your children with layers of clothing that can be easily added or taken off, as necessary. For very cold days, please provide warm layers of clothing, hats and gloves. Staying active and outdoors whenever possible will be our goal.

### Projects for Home Learning

- Make a planet to hang from our classroom ceiling – paper mache or however you fancy.
- Research different space missions and the astronauts that went on them – make a mini book or powerpoint to share with the class.
- Make a cake to look like a planet!
- Make a poem to help you learn all the countries of the continent of North America
- Learn the states of the USA with the capital cities and make a rap to teach it to the class.

### Reading to complement our Space Theme:

(adults may want to check the content of books first as some story lines may have challenging scenes for some readers)

*Space Band* by Tom Fletcher

*Look Up!* by Nathan Bryon & Dapo Adeola

*The Extraordinary Life of Katherine Johnson* by Devika Jina & Maggie Cole (2019)

*The Dinosaur that Pooped a Planet!* by Tom Fletcher, Dougie Poynter & Garry Parsons (2013)

*See You in the Cosmos* by Jack Cheng (2017)

*Hidden Figures - The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race* by : Margot Lee Shetterly (Author)

*Gutsy Girls Go For Science: Astronauts With Stem Projects for Kids* by Alicia Klepeis

*There's No Place Like Space - All About Our Solar System* by Tish Rabe

*Women in Space : 23 Stories of First Flights, Scientific Missions, and Gravity-Breaking Adventures* by Karen Gibson

*A Complicated Love Story Set in Space* by Shaun David Hutchinson

### And finally...

There is a worry box in the class for children to put notes in, if they want to be anonymous while informing me of any concerns and/or issues. We will take a mixed approach of addressing gaps and progressing forwards in all our subjects, with low level quick quizzes to monitor the children. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Baker, Mrs Angier, Mrs Bodi and Ms Pope

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The Gotham City Team



### Key knowledge for NORTH AMERICA

The largest country in North America is Canada, but the United States of America has the largest population. North America encompasses parts of the Arctic Circle and reaches south to the Tropics, within the northern hemisphere. The most spoken languages are English, French and Spanish. North America has many amazing physical features, including Niagara Falls, the Rocky Mountains and many large scale lakes. There are also many tropical islands in the Caribbean Sea.

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
The Caribbean Central America Denali Great Lakes Mississippi River North America	landscape location mountain range rural state urban peninsula archipelago	latitude longitude Northern Hemisphere north-east north-west south-east south-west Western Hemisphere

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## GLOSSARY OF SPACE THEME VOCABULARY

heliocentric	The modern model of the solar system, which places the sun at the centre.
geocentric	The old solar system model, which thought the Earth was at the centre.
solar system	The name for the sun and all the planets, asteroids, meteors and comets that orbit it.
astronomy	The study of space, planets and the universe as a whole.
gravitational force	The force that causes two particles to pull towards each other.
orbit	The path of one celestial object around another i.e. the Moon around the Earth.
Big Bang Theory	The most widely accepted scientific theory of how the Universe was made.
Planet	A large object in orbit around a star.