On our return to school, Cuckoo Class set sail on a voyage of discovery to find out about ‘New Frontiers’. We stepped aboard the HMS Cuckoo and set sail to explore the oceans and seas around Great Britain and into the world beyond. We found out that we had a lot in common with a certain snail who hopped onto a whale to do exactly the same thing!

This term we will be using the story of The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson to help us with our own story writing. We will be reading the story in class and exploring it further with visiting storyteller John Kirk. Later this half term we will be using various texts to help us write non-fiction booklets about creatures who love in the oceans. This will be supported by our visit to the Sea Life Centre and our work in science, exploring different living creatures and their habitats. Later this term we will explore even further afield, discovering space and in particular space travel and exploration through both fiction and non-fiction texts. We will be writing recounts of our journeys and will write letters home from space. In our reading we will be asking and answering questions about texts we are using in class and developing our skills of inference using clues in the texts to discuss our reading. We will continue with our phonics learning to help us decode texts and to learn our spellings.

To help us plan our voyages, we will be using atlases to discover the names and locations of the seas and oceans around Great Britain and in the world beyond. We will be learning about the different features of the oceans, and learning and using the correct vocabulary of the physical features associated with them. In history, we will be learning about key from the history of exploration including Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. We will look at how seascapes have been presented in art through a study of the paintings of J.M.W Turner and learn how to mix paints and pastels to create seascapes and planets. We will compose music to represent the planets using tuned and untuned percussion instruments and compare this to the music of Gustav Holst in his planet suite. We will also be learning sea songs to sing on our voyages!

Our focus in RE is ‘What is the Good News Jesus Brings’ and we will be studying the Gospels. We will look at the instructions Jesus gave to Christians and how these beliefs are put into practice. In PSHE we are learning about the zones of regulation and how to recognise and cope with the emotions we feel. In computing we will be learning about the safe use of technology for communication, such as email, and working together to solve a cake mystery!

PE will be on a Tuesday and Wednesday and we will sometimes be outside, meaning that children will need appropriate kit for the colder weather. If children have a royal blue or navy track suit for outdoor games then they still require shorts and a short sleeved PE top for inside.

Our maths this term will focus on all four operations as well as shape and measures. We work daily at telling the time throughout the day and this is a great skill to practise at home too. There will be a small maths task each week for homework, alongside weekly spelling and daily reading. As always, there is a homework menu to choose from each term and it was lovely to see all the topic related homework that pupils brought in last term from their menu.

Finally, we always appreciate help in school, whether it is each week or through attending any of our open learning sessions when the children share their work. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more about helping in school.

Mrs Skouros
Cuckoo Class Teacher