English home learning tasks:

Focus: Non-Fiction

* Monday:

Outcome: To record information

Task: Show your child the “Space for you” resource on ActiveLearn. Explain that they are going to help select a shortlist of two applicants to be trained as astronauts for the mission. Click the paperclip icon to read the job advert. Discuss the personal qualities described in the advert and have them make a note of these.

Ask your child to suggest additional strengths and skills that a potential astronaut might need and to add these to their notes. Read the applicant profiles on ‘Applicants’ (Active Learn). Remind them to provide evidence for their choices.

Give them the “Top two” and “Pick me” sheets to look at and complete.

* Tuesday:

Outcome: To gather information from a text

Task: Explain that it would be useful to research a successful astronaut to find out what qualities a real astronaut has.

Introduce the eBook A Huge First Step (Active Learn). Explain that a biography is an account of someone’s life that is written by somebody else.

Use ‘Biographies’ (session resource) to explore why people read biographies. Discuss the eBook cover and the contents screen, and then read to the end of Screen 4, modelling asking questions as you read and making use of eBook features (headings, sub-headings, glossary, interactive pop-ups). Ask how do we know it is a biography? (It is about Neil Armstrong, but is written by another person.)

Complete the “Neil Early Years” task.

* Wednesday:

Outcome: To scan for information in a text

Task: Continue reading the eBook.

Remind your child that the purpose for reading is to explore the personal qualities Neil Armstrong had.

While reading, model using the glossary to explore new or unusual words.

Discuss the eBook: Are you inspired by Neil Armstrong? Can you remember any of his personal qualities?

Introduce scanning (looking for specific pieces of information).

Model how to scan the fact box, ‘A brush with death’, on Screen 4 to find specific mention of Neil’s personal qualities (bravery, ability to stay calm). Add any new examples of Neil’s personal qualities to their notes.

Have your child complete ‘Neil’s qualities’ (session resource), scanning the text for examples of Neil’s personal qualities and writing a sentence to summarise them.

* Thursday:

Outcome: To plan and write a short diary entry

Task: Read the pop-up supplementary text on Screen 3 of the eBook – the diary of Neil Armstrong flying for the first time. Ask your child what information does this give us about Neil Armstrong.

Highlight the expressions that show how much Neil enjoyed the flight. Ask the following: How old was he? What future aspect of his life is linked to this day?

Highlight first person and verb agreement.

Have your child discuss a first-time experience of their own.

The children plan and write a diary entry about doing something for the first time.

* Friday:

Outcome: To revisit their diary and practice editing.

Task: Remind your child that diary entries should be written in the first person.

Help your child go through their diary entry and give constructive feedback, commenting, for example, on parts that engage the reader, use or overuse of pronouns, and fronted time and place adverbials. They can try doing this with their classmates using Google Classroom instead if they are signed up.

They then improve, re-evaluate and proof-read their diary entries.