

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and the children had a very restful break and I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year! We have a very busy term ahead of us. Our topic this term has been suggested by the children and is 'What do you know about Space?' The children will be learning about planets, the moon, the stars and other objects in space and they will continue to develop their social, emotional, language and reasoning skills through topic related focussed activities and carefully planned continuous provision.

Our online learning journal 'Tapestry' will continue to be used to share your child's learning journey through photographs and videos. We value parents' contributions towards the children's learning journey. Please do use it to share your child's experiences outside of school and completed homework. Some of these will be shared with the rest of the class.

This term the children will be working on the following key skills:

What do you know about Space?

Nursery Key Topic Skills	Reception Key Topic Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can recognise, trace and begin to form the letters of my name • I can order 3 space objects by size and use simple size language such as big, small and little. recite/sing rhymes/songs about dinosaurs from memory • I begin to draw and paint simple representations of space objects by drawing circles and lines and enclosing spaces • I can create, explore and begin to describe various textures, e.g. moon sand and space dough • I am beginning to subitise quantities up to 3 • I can recite number names in order • I can name shapes: triangle, rectangle, square, circle and heart • I begin to use simple positional language • I can retell a simple story using roleplay and props • I can adapt a story with my teachers • I am beginning to use a pincer grip to hold my pen • I am beginning to associate letters with sounds • I can share my creations, explaining what I have used • I join in with singing simple nursery rhymes and songs and begin to recite/sing some of them by heart. • I can play alongside other children, beginning to engage in conversations and sharing space and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can name different planets and can talk about their features, similarities and differences using descriptive vocabulary. • I can put space objects in order and can use comparative size vocabulary. • I can draw and paint simple representations of space objects by drawing circles and lines and enclosing spaces. • I can choose use colours with a purpose in mind • I can create, explore and describe various textures, e.g. moon sand and space dough, speaking in full sentences ad using varied descriptive vocabulary • I can confidently subitise quantities up to 5 objects • I can count at least 10 objects accurately. • I know the composition of numbers to 9 • I can name basic 2D shapes and describe them using correct mathematical vocabulary such as number of corners and sides. • I can say where the object is in relation to other objects speaking in full sentences • I can retell a simple story or a past experience, placing events in a logical order. • I begin to create my own stories. • I can draw and write using a comfortable pencil grip • I can use all the letter sounds and consonant diagraphs <i>th, sh, ch, nk, ng</i> and <i>ck</i> in my writing. • I begin to read and write words with some vowel diagraphs. • In meaningful contexts, I begin to write sentences that make sense using the basic punctuation and the knowledge of the learnt sounds. • I can sing a variety of Nursery rhymes and songs and continue to build the repertoire of songs that I can sing from memory.
<p>Activities/Resources/Experiences</p>	<p>Vocabulary:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting planets, exploring various painting techniques; combining materials • Making star biscuits • Designing and making aliens from recycled and collage materials • Making a solar system with fruit 	<p>PSE: kind, gentle, share, friend, taking turns, responsible, Going for Gold</p> <p>Literacy/Phonics: letter, sound, special friend, word, blend, sound out, story, retell, acting out, characters</p>

- Making paper Mache planets and space objects
- Making and exploring space dough
- Making and exploring moon sand
- Watching real life space video clips
- Learning about the first man/woman in space, space scientists from ethnic minority backgrounds
- Trip to the Science museum (Thursday, 6th February)
- Space yoga and space dances
- Space small word play

Maths:

count, number, subitise, represent, how many, altogether, one more, one less
 shape, circle, triangle, straight, curved, square, rectangle, combine,
 time, order, day, night, afternoon, morning, before, after, today, tomorrow, now, next, later, measure

UW:

Space, planet, galaxy, asteroid, Moon, astronaut, spacecraft, rocket
 Planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune
 Dwarf planet Pluto

RE: Christian, God, Bible, Jesus, Parable miracle, temple heal; key concept- incarnation

EA&D:

Painting, printing, collaging, technique, texture, pattern, materials, colour, fill in, cover,

The key texts this term will be:



The general pieces of information/reminders below should also be helpful as your child continues his/her education but please do speak to me if you have questions about any of these points:

- **School Uniform:** All the children must come to school wearing the correct school uniform. (Elasticated school uniform trousers or jogging bottoms are often a better choice for school children than trousers with the zip and a button as they encourage to develop independence) Please ensure that all uniform items are named (especially sweatshirts and cardigans) as this helps to return lost items to the right children. It is important that the children wear appropriate footwear – comfortable black school shoes with Velcro fastenings help with developing independence.
- **Book Bags:** These are an important part of school life as they help to bring home books, letters or art work that the children have made. The book bags need to be brought to school every day. Please make sure your child's name is clearly labelled on their book bag. **Books will be changed on Mondays.**
- **Spare Clothes:** Each child needs to have a set of spare clothes in a **clearly labelled string draw bag**, e.g. St Matthew's PE bag, which will be kept on your child's peg. Please note that our cupboard cannot fit bags of other styles due to a very limited space.
- **Snack Time:** Fruit and milk is available to the children every day. We will encourage children to try all of the fruits that are provided. If you haven't yet told the school office about any medical or allergy information about your child, please do pass this on as soon as possible.
- **PE:** PE sessions will continue to take place on Fridays. On this day, the children have to come to school wearing their PE kit - navy shorts/jogging bottoms, T-shirt, trainers and the school jumper.
- **Homework:** compulsory homework in the Early Years is reading. Both Nursery and Reception children will continue to get a picture book. The children should be encouraged to talk about the illustrations, to join in with repetitive parts and to retell the stories. Reception children will continue to take home word cards and the reading books to consolidate phonics skills that have been learning at school.
- **Safety:** To ensure the safety of all pupils, the use of mobile phones and taking pictures of the children by parents is not permitted in our Early Years setting.
- **Medicines:** Only prescribed medicines in the prescription packaging may be administered at School and all the relevant paperwork must be completed by the parent/carer prior to any medication being administered. General medication (such as Calpol, cough medicine, eye drops) cannot be administered by any member of staff.
- **Pre-loved items:** If you would like to donate a preloved item in good condition to the Early Years, please speak to a member of staff first, as we have very limited space for resources. However, we always need small bits and bobs for creative work such as bottle tops, buttons, yoghurt pots, straws, kitchen towel rolls and small boxes. We would also appreciate pre-loved books and toys on the topic of 'Space'.
- **Collective Worship:** Our whole school Celebration Collective Worship takes place every Friday at 2:50pm; all parents are welcome to attend. The black playground gates on St Ann's Lane are opened at 2.45pm so that parents can join us for this special celebration collective worship/ assembly in the school hall.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to me at school at the end of the day, or make an appointment by emailing the school office.

Yours sincerely, **Mrs Farida Swift** Early Years Class Teacher