

Reception Curriculum Statement

Spring 1 Term - "Out of This World!"

During the Spring 1 term, Reception children will explore the exciting topic of **Space**. This topic is designed to spark curiosity, develop vocabulary, and build key skills across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Learning will be play-based, engaging, and responsive to children's interests, while supporting progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

Children will develop their speaking and listening skills through discussions about space, planets, astronauts, and space travel. They will learn and use new vocabulary such as *planet*, *rocket*, *astronaut*, *moon*, and *stars*. Children will ask questions, share ideas, listen to stories and non-fiction texts about space, and take part in role-play and group conversations. Children will learn the names of all the planets and their order from the sun (through song).

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be encouraged to work collaboratively during space-themed activities, such as building rockets or acting out space missions. They will develop confidence to share ideas, take turns, and persevere with challenges. Through stories and discussions, children will reflect on feelings such as excitement, bravery, and teamwork, helping them to manage emotions and build positive relationships.

Physical Development

Fine motor skills will be developed through activities such as writing phonic appropriate words and sentences, designing rockets, cutting and joining materials, and using tools safely. Gross motor skills will be supported through space-inspired movement activities, obstacle courses (astronaut training), and outdoor play, helping children to develop strength, balance, and coordination. This half term children will be doing Yoga in PE lessons which will be delivered by an outside provider.

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy

Children will enjoy a range of fiction and non-fiction texts linked to space. We will be using Usborne non-fiction books to find out information and a variety of quality fiction texts including those by Oliver Jeffers. They will practise retelling stories, sequencing events, and

responding to what they hear. Phonics learning will support early reading and writing, with children applying sounds to write simple words and captions, such as labels for planets or short sentences about space adventures. Phonics teaching will progress in line with Little Wandle phase 3. Please see Little Wandle website, for parents section for further details at www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

Mathematics

Mathematical learning will be embedded through space contexts, such as counting planets, ordering by size, comparing distances, and exploring patterns and subitising with stars. Children will practise number recognition, counting, simple addition and subtraction, and positional language (e.g. *above, below, next to*), using practical, hands-on resources.

Understanding the World

Children will learn about the Earth and beyond, exploring planets, the sun, moon, and stars. They will discuss similarities and differences between Earth and space, learn about astronauts including famous astronauts in history and Children will also be looking at seasonal change with regards to Winter, how it differs from Autumn and hopefully enjoying some first hand experiences in the snow.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will express creativity through space-themed art, music, dance, and role-play. They will design and build rockets/space buggies create planet artwork using different media, and explore sounds and movements inspired by space. Imaginative play will allow children to act out space journeys, developing creativity and storytelling skills.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Throughout the term, children will be supported to:

- **Play and explore** by investigating space resources and following their own interests
- **Actively learn** by concentrating, practising new skills, and persisting with challenges
- **Create and think critically** by designing, problem-solving, and making connections within their learning

Phonic home learning sheets will continue to be sent home weekly as well as reading books twice a week. Thank you for your continued support, it makes all the difference!

Mrs Anderson