

Curriculum Newsletter - 2nd half of Summer 2026



Dear Reception Parents

May 2026

We hope that you enjoyed your half term break and that the children are refreshed! This half term our focus will be on learning about 'Space'. We will be exploring the themes 'aliens and astronauts', 'space crafts' and 'planets'. We will be exploring whether aliens exist, what they would do/look like. We will be using fiction books to stimulate their imaginations and role play travelling into space. We will also explore factual information on how astronauts originally travelled into space and how they get there today. Also, where they stay, what they eat and how they move around. We will look at our planet and talk about other planets we know and the role of the sun and the moon.

We encourage you to get involved in your child's learning experience by discussing space-related topics at home, reading space-themed books together and exploring the night sky. This will reinforce the concepts taught in class and foster a love for learning about space. Throughout the term, the children will participate in various space-related activities and games, making it a memorable and fun-filled experience.

Important: PE will continue to be on a Thursday and the children will be coming into school on this day in their PE kits, in line with the rest of the school. A separate email has followed with this information.

We look forward to seeing our young learners grow and develop their knowledge and understanding of space. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Reading books will continue to be changed on a Monday and Friday, with homework being marked on a Friday. Your child may bring in any 'wow work' or artefact they would like to talk about related to Space or their achievements out of school. Remember to keep practising the reading and tricky words on the bookmarks, as well as their targets.



SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW YOU CAN HELP:-

Talking

- Sing songs & rhymes from memory
- Take turns in conversation at home
- Talk about keeping healthy
- Use geographical vocabulary to describe features
- Recall special events in their own lives that have happened & sequence e.g. wedding, birthday Eid etc

Stories

- Ask children questions about what they have read
- Discuss openings, endings, settings and action stories with your child
- Retell the stories they have read or had read to them
- Identify the morals of stories – what is right or wrong and why?
- Look at books written by one author
- Look at non-fiction books about Space

Out & About

- Play games involving kicking, running, throwing and catching
- Discuss position of objects outside
- Look for patterns in the environment
- Identify coins whilst shopping
- Explore the stars at night

In the Kitchen

- Share objects, e.g. beans, between 2 people
- Follow verbal instructions to cook
- Talk about safety when cooking and safe use of equipment
- Weigh items on scales

Making

- Make a Space collage
- Use things found outside to create pictures
- Mix paint colours together



My Family

Creative Development

- Painting / drawing where we live / people in family
- Role play in a variety of 'cultural' settings



Personal & Social Development

- Developing an awareness that families are different
- Make pictures / cards for people in family

Understanding the World

- Know the seasons and months of the year
- Look at similarities and differences between planets
- Talk about past events in our lives
- Use appropriate geographical vocabulary
- Gain an awareness of the cultures and beliefs of others
- To sort and classify materials
- Draw plants and space using a variety of materials
- Talk about feelings and thoughts of moving to Year 1 – events in their future

Physical Development

- Recognise changes in our bodies after exercise
- Jumping and landing safely from different starting positions
- Be aware of those people who can help us keep safe and healthy and what we do to keep healthy
- Be able to move to a beat
- Throwing, catching, aiming and hitting
- Link movements together in short phrases
- Use a wide range of tools safely and with increased accuracy e.g. scissors etc
- Identify potential risks

Expressive Arts & Design

- Recognise how sounds can be changed
- Use imagination in art, design, music, dance and role play
- Record constructions through drawing
- Discuss with children the purpose of the 'make' and possible solutions before construction. Make suggestions and ask questions about what is possible, e.g. 'I wonder what would happen if...Can you think of another way of doing it...Would you show me how it works?'



Mathematical Development

- Compare 2 numbers up to 10 and say which is more /less / greater / smaller
- Use number bonds to 10. Different ways to make 10
- Use + and – up to 20
- Recognise odd and even numbers
- Name and discuss the properties of 3D and 2D shapes
- Use language to describe position
- Compare 3 or more quantities by weight / capacity / size / length
- Symmetrical pictures
- Orally count to 20 and beyond

Personal & Social Development

- Develop a sense of empathy and support others
- Consider the way they have changed since starting Reception
- Understand what is right / wrong and why
- Understand that people have different needs, views, cultures and beliefs and that they need to be treated with respect
- Ask for help and give help to others
- Talk about how we are different, what is special about some other people

Communication and Language

- Recognise consonant clusters
- Listen with increased attention
- Speak with increasing detail using appropriate vocabulary
- Take turns in group discussions
- Transfer understanding of a story to write own version

Literacy

- Talk confidently about what they have read, e.g. characters in stories
- Retell stories in the correct order, sequencing events logically using story language
- Write for a variety of purposes, e.g. tickets, lists, letters, fact files etc.
- Use full stops and capital letters consistently
- Use information texts to find answers to simple questions