

Nursery – Spring 2

Topic

Space is a big, exciting place high above the sky! When we look up at night, we can see tiny twinkling stars, the Moon, and sometimes even planets. Space is everything beyond our Earth, and it's full of wonders waiting to be explored. With this in mind this term's topic is called 5,4,3,2,1 Blast Off. We will look as astronauts traveling in space in rockets to learn more about what's out there. In space, we can find planets of different sizes and colours, bright stars, and even the Sun, which keeps us warm and gives us light.

Learning about space helps us imagine, explore, and dream big—just like real astronauts!

Communication and Language (Speaking and Listening)

Language is a key focus in Pre School. Our 'Wondrous Words', new vocabulary from books we read, provide us with a starting point for nurturing new and exciting vocabulary. When children are accessing our stimulating provision, we encourage the use of simple sentences with 3-4 words and provide a strong model to develop this. We also develop the children's ability to ask questions and give a running commentary of what they are doing, particularly praising the use of new 'Wondrous Words'. Our topic themed role play areas encourage interaction with others in small groups alongside our small world and puppet play areas. Snack time is an ideal opportunity for language development – asking questions and developing manners such as please and thank you.

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

The modelling of reading is key; we take time to show the children how to hold books the correct way up, treat books carefully and develop a love of listening to and learning from both stories and non-fiction books. We have a selection of books relating to the space topic for children to access at all times. Stories have been carefully chosen in relation to the topic, these stories include Zoom rocket Zoom, The Way Back Home, How to Catch a Star and Whatever Next.

The children are encouraged to repeat words and phrases from stories that are read to them. Children will be taking part in World Book Day, more details of this will follow.

In mark making and writing children make simple marks like dots, lines, and scribbles, using their hands, fingers, or tools such as crayons, chalk, or paintbrushes. These early marks help children develop important skills, including hand-eye coordination, fine motor control, and the ability to use tools with purpose. As children grow in confidence, their marks become more controlled and meaningful. They start to create shapes, patterns, and eventually letters. Mark making is not just drawing it is a vital part of communication, expression, and early literacy.

Each week your child will bring home a story book for you to read with your child. The books will be changed every Friday.

Maths (Number and Shape, Space and Measure)

In maths children will explore different weight and talk about which is heavier, which is lighter, can you find something that weighs the same? Begin to use the language of size, explore capacity using language such as full, empty and half full. Children will be counting and naming sets of 5, counting one to one correspondence. Children will be subitizing to five and learning to count on and back from 5. We will also be learning positional language, for example can you put the space man in front of the rocket.

Personal Development (P.S.H.E.)

This half term in PSHE, our topic is “Healthy Me.” The children will be learning all about how to look after their bodies and keep themselves safe and healthy. Here’s an overview of what we’ll be exploring. We will begin by looking at the key parts of our bodies and discussing what each part helps us do. This supports children in building confidence and understanding how their bodies work.

The children will be sorting foods into healthy and unhealthy categories and talking about how balanced eating helps us grow strong and feel good. We’ll also think about how different foods affect our energy and wellbeing. The Importance of a Good Night’s Sleep. We will discuss why sleep is important, how it helps our brains and bodies, and simple ideas for calming bedtime routines that help us to rest well.

Handwashing and Staying Clean

Children will learn why we wash our hands, when we should do it, and how good hygiene helps stop germs from spreading and keeps us healthy. Stranger Danger Finally, we will be talking about stranger danger in an age-appropriate and reassuring way.

Understanding the World (Geography, History, Science and Computing)

This half term, we are excited to launch into a brand-new topic: Space!

The children will be heading on an adventure beyond our planet as we explore the wonders of our solar system and the incredible mysteries of the universe.

What We’ll Be Learning over the next few weeks, we will dive into: Stars – discovering what stars are made of, why they shine, and how constellations help us map the night sky. Planets – learning about the different planets in our solar system, their unique features, and what makes Earth such a special place to live.

The Solar System – understanding how the Sun, planets, and moons move, and how they interact with one another. Famous Astronauts – we’ll meet some real-life space heroes, including Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the Moon, and Tim Peake, the first British astronaut to visit the International Space Station.

Expressive Arts and Design (Art and Music)

Singing and performing songs is at the heart of our nursery musical experience. We teach a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs to support this. Our fabulous environment allows children access to a range of percussion instruments where they

can become composers in their own right. In the next half term the home corner will be transformed into a fully equipped space station, complete with:
A rocket ready for take-off, a control panel with buttons, switches, planets hanging in orbit and friendly aliens to meet on our journeys
This immersive play space will inspire imaginative role play as the children blast into space, explore distant worlds, and communicate with life beyond Earth!
The children will use their creativity and problem-solving skills to design and build their own rockets. They will explore a wide range of: materials, tools, joining techniques and decorative resources
This hands-on activity allows children to plan, create and evaluate their designs while developing fine motor skills and independence. Story Focus: Whatever Next!
When we read the much-loved story Whatever Next! by Jill Murphy, the children will join Baby Bear on an adventure to the moon. Inspired by the story, they will:
Make their own sandwiches, pack them up and take them on an imaginative picnic to the moon!

Physical Development (P.E.)

Both gross and fine motor skill development is key at the nursery stage. Our 'Finger Gym' will provide many opportunities to manipulate objects such as pinching and posting objects. We will continue with daily dough disco to help strengthen our fingers. At snack time children are encouraged to use their fine motor skills in pouring their milk and peeling their snack. When outside children are supported to put on their own coats, wellies and waterproofs.
Children will be taking part in a weekly PE lesson with a PE coach to help develop their gross motor development.

Religious Education (R.E.)

Over the coming weeks, the children will be learning about the Easter story. We will explore the key events leading up to Easter in an age-appropriate and engaging way, including activities that help the children understand themes such as kindness, hope, and new beginnings. The children will take part in creative tasks, discussions, and story-based learning to deepen their understanding.
This term, we will also be preparing a special celebration for Mother's Day. The children will have the opportunity to create something thoughtful to show appreciation for the special people who care for them. We look forward to sharing this lovely occasion with you and celebrating all the amazing mums and caregivers in our community.

Additional Information

- Children are to come to school in their PE kits and trainers on a Wednesday.
- We kindly ask for a weekly donation of £1 which will help buy extra snacks, ingredients for baking and to buy fruit and vegetables for tasting. You can pay this weekly or for the half term. This half term is 5 weeks.
- All children are to bring a water bottle to school, clearly labelled.
- Please provide extra clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents.