

Communication and language

The children will listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary. Whilst listening to and talking about stories to build familiarity and understanding, they will be able to retell stories using their own words. The children will be encouraged to ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them. They will develop the vocabulary to be able to articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences. In all areas of the classroom we will use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and explain how things work and why they might happen.

Personal and social development

The children will be supported in building constructive and respectful relationships with others and develop resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. Through stories the children will explore and identify different feelings and behaviours. They will be encouraged to express their feelings and consider the feelings of others. We will discuss ways to take care of the Earth such as not dropping litter, turning of taps, recycling and switching off lights.

Whatever Next!

Spring 1 Reception

Physical Development

In our 'Real PE' sessions, we will be developing overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility through different stories and songs. We will take part in small motor activities so that a range of tools can be used competently, safely and confidently. Arm, hand and finger muscles will be developed through large and fine motor activities to enable children to hold a pencil correctly and with sufficient pressure for writing. They will use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.

SMSC

During our social, moral, spiritual and cultural lessons we will be discussing the following questions:

- Democracy – Is it important to listen to others?
- Charity/community – How do we help others?
- Raising aspirations: Goals – What am I good at?
- Health and wellbeing: balanced lifestyle – What is my favourite food?
- Keeping safe: How can we keep ourselves safe at home and school?
- Sex & relationships: bullying – What would I do if someone is unkind to me?

Literacy

Through the **Read Write Inc** phonic programme children will learn to read individual letters and groups of letters (special friends) by saying the sounds for them. They will blend sounds into words, so that they can read and write words and short sentences made up of known graphemes, and learn to read some common exception words. We will look at a range of books and comics that focus on fiction and non-fiction texts with a space theme. They will create a story maps for familiar stories such as 'Whatever Next!' and make up their own versions. They will also write lists, recounts and descriptions.

Mathematics

We will reinforce careful one-to-one counting of larger groups of objects and develop understanding of the cardinal value of numbers. We will explore the composition of and compare numbers up to 8. We will use appropriate vocabulary to compare the mass of space rocks and capacity of containers. We will use language related to time to sequence familiar events. You can help at home by practising counting objects and actions, recognising and ordering numbers to 10.

Expressive arts and design

This half term, we will have opportunities to role-play being explorers and astronauts. We will learn and remember a variety of songs about space using actions and simple percussion instruments. In music lessons we will be learning to listen and respond to different styles of music
Using a combination of media we will explore and respond to the work of Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*
We will investigate ways to create different shades and textures using paint.

Understanding the world

We will develop an understanding of place by exploring space: which planet do we live on and what makes Earth special? What is it like in the place I live? Using a range of sources we will find out what's in space and how to get there.
Observations will be made of the effect of changing seasons on the natural world. In R.E. we will: explore the concept of God in religions and learn why God is special to Christians. We will also learn about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.



**Friday is P.E. day
in Reception.**

Children should come to school every Tuesday dressed for their P.E. lesson in trainers, black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms and a white or blue T-shirt. Football strips are not allowed.

Only water is allowed
in water bottles – no
juice please.

Reading

After learning all set 1 sounds and spending time learning how to blend sounds together to read words it is now important to develop fluency (speedy reading skills). Children will be given a set of word cards to learn to read by sight: you should show each word to your child and they should be able to read the word without the need to blend the sounds. The aim is to say the word as soon as it is shown. You could challenge your child to see how many words they can read in a given amount of time.

Please make sure reading folders are returned promptly so we can rotate reading books.