



Robins

Reception Class Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 1 2018



Theme: Space



Welcome back! We hope you've had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed the festivities.

Many thanks indeed for the kind and generous cards and gifts and warm wishes that we received over the Christmas period. All were much appreciated.

This half term our theme will be 'Space'. We will use key texts throughout the topic (To include 'Alien's Love Underpants', 'Whatever Next', 'On the Moon', 'Q Pootle 5' and 'A day in the life of Bob (Man on the Moon)').



Reading



It is important that your child reads **daily** at home to/with an adult. Please remember to write a comment in the box in their reading record to show they've read at home. Remember they can read to other adults too. If you are finding this difficult or have any questions about reading, please pop in to see us, we have lots of tips and advice!

Homework

Please keep looking through your child's Home Learning File with them regularly. Learning letter sounds and letter formation are the most vital skills at this early stage. A 'little-and-often' approach works best. It is important to revise previously learnt sounds as often as possible. The file will be collected each Monday and returned each Wednesday with stamps and stickers for completed sheets and new sheets enclosed.

Outdoor Play

As mentioned previously, the children are able to use our outdoor learning environment (Poppy Garden) throughout the day and may choose to spend much of their time outside. Please ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat and some gloves throughout the winter.



Naming belongings

Please ensure **ALL** belongings are clearly named. Especially new hats gloves and scarves that might have been purchased over the Christmas period!



In addition to the usual requests of lining paper/wall paper (except textured or embossed), shaving foam and wind-up toys, this half term we would really appreciate any donations of cardboard tubes, foil blankets/tin foil, foil trays/platters and large cardboard boxes (for outdoor roleplay), warning tape (yellow/black stripes or red/white stripes). These items will allow us to create amazing role play spaces within the indoor and outdoor classrooms.



Dates for your diary 2018

3rd January – School reopens

17th and 18th January – gam Maths stay and play sessions

26th January – ARC Quiz Night

8th February – Half Term – school closes normal time

9th February – INSET School closed to children

19th February – School reopens

This half term our key focuses for learning will be

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

To discuss the school value ‘co-operation’ through the use of story and role-play. To play co-operatively with peers in the role play areas and talk about astronauts working as a team. To become less dependent on adults, when working as part of a small group.

How you can help at home

Play fun games with your child at home to help develop their co-operative play. Talk about co-operation - What does it look like in your home? (Working together on tasks like setting the table, tidying up and shopping etc). Praise your child’s achievements, no matter how small.

Physical Development

To continue to form letters using cursive script (posh school writing), and beginning to use joined up writing for our names and for 'digraph' sounds as we learn them (E.g. sh, ch, th, ng, ee, oo etc). To put on and do up my own coat. To think about dressing appropriately for the weather (it's cold out today, I need my coat, hat, gloves). To dress and undress independently for P.E./gymnastics sessions.

How you can help at home

Work through your child's Home Learning File frequently. Help your child become independent when dressing and undressing themselves. It might take a little longer in the beginning, but they'll soon become much quicker. **Give it a try!** A good trick for teaching them to put their coat on independently is to get them to put their hood on their head first and then put their arms in one at a time. Children find it much easier to locate their armholes this way. Also help your child to check that their shoes are on the right feet. If they put the shoes together and lift the velcro straps the straps should touch, rather than move away from each other.

Numeracy

To consistently recognise and order numerals to 20. To use everyday language to talk about position (above, below, behind, in between). To instantly say 1 more/1 less than a given number. To begin to recognise, name and describe 3D shapes (cylinder, cube, cuboid, cone etc). To use language linked to length and weight (longer, shorter, heavy, lighter, which weighs more/less). To add by combining sets. To take away by removing objects. To become familiar with the symbols +, -, = and respond to the vocabulary 'take away', 'minus', 'subtract', 'plus', 'add', 'total', 'altogether', 'makes', 'equals'.

How you can help at home

Play counting games when out and about - who can count the most cars/buses? What if we had seen 1 more/ 1 less - how many would that have been? Be as creative as you like. Remember you can count ANYTHING! Help your child recall the number formation rhymes. Identify different shapes around the house both 2D and 3D (clock - circle, table - square / rectangle, TV - rectangle, cereal box - cuboid, tin of baked beans - cylinder). Talk to your child about days of the week, what month we are in. Can they say when their birthday is?

Literacy

To participate actively in daily phonics sessions. Play phonics games on IWB and use rocket phoneme/sound frames and other phonics games to reinforce group sessions. Find out about information books/non fiction. Why are they different to story books/fiction? What do non-fiction books tell us? What different features do they have? Contents page, glossary, facts, photographs etc. To begin to recognise some familiar sounds when reading. To begin to represent some familiar sounds in my writing. To attempt to write a short caption/sentence using finger spaces.

How to help at home

Encourage your child to use their 'posh school writing' (See the front cover of the Home Learning file) whenever they are doing any writing at home. Whether they are helping to write a shopping list or signing a birthday card. Please use the Home learning file to support our phonics teaching. A little-and-often approach can and will make all the difference. Read your child's school book daily and please remember to write a comment so we know they've read their book. When reading with your child, talk about what is happening? What do they think is going to happen next? Were they right? Enjoy sharing and looking at a wide range of books. Perhaps visit the library and have a look for some space themed stories or even an information book! Look at the following website for some handy videos about supporting phonics, reading and writing at home:

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home/phonics-made-easy/

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home/starting-to-read-ages-4-5/

Understanding the World

Talking and finding out about space. What do we already know? What would we like to find out? Preparing our garden for Spring by planting bulbs (help would be much appreciated). Finding out about Winter – Take a walk in the forest school. What has changed since our last visit? Is anything the same? To talk with increasing confidence when sharing our ideas on the carpet. To begin using the ipads in class, as well as visiting the ICT suite to support all areas of learning.

How you can help at home

Talk about seasonal change when you are out-and-about. Look at the frost on the ground and ice on car windows. Can you see any patterns in the ice? Why do we need to be careful when the ground is icy? Continue to access child friendly websites such as CBeebies, Phonics Play and Busy Things. CBeebies have a wonderful show called Stargazing. Click on the link to find information, podcasts, songs, games and much, much more <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/stargazing>. We'll be using Stargazing in class too. For more space themed information and challenges with Major Tim Peake, take a look at ... <http://www.destinationspace.uk/meet-space-crew/>.

Expressive Arts and Design

To explore different creative media –marble painted/tea bag splatted planets, cardboard tube rockets, constellation pictures and much more. Sing familiar space themed songs – such as Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star and 5 Little Men in their flying saucers. Indoor role play – Ground Control (writing missions, tracking space craft and satellites on maps) The Space shuttle (writing space logs, labelling a map of the planets). Outdoor role play – Outer Space (build a shuttle and go on a spacewalk. Draw stars and planets on the outer space display.

How you can help at home

Sing plenty of songs together – new ones or old favourites. Here is a lovely bedtime song from the Stargazing show - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/stargazing-bedtime-song> Have a go at constructing your own space shuttle, moon buggy or satellite using recyclable materials. Paint or draw a space or winter scene picture. You could use crayons, chalks, pens, stickers or stamps. As always, there are lots of marvelous ideas on Pinterest! Have lots of fun engaging in role play/small world play with your child. Why don't you try having a pretend picnic on the moon! What would you take?

Thank you for your support.

Mrs M Neri and Mrs L Chapman