

Literacy

Our Talk for Writing sessions will focus on two stories: *Each Peach Pear Plum* and *Aliens Love Underpants*. We will learn actions and create story maps to support us in retelling each story. We will innovate on the stories, writing our own versions in small groups, and will also create poems linked to these books. In our daily ReadWriteInc sessions we will meet 'alien words' - words that don't exist in English, but which we should be able to sound out using our phonics skills.

Expressive Arts and Design

To tie-in with our class story, we will be designing and creating our own aliens and space scenes. We will be thinking about texture a lot, selecting the materials we use based on the way that they feel - if we want our rockets to be smooth but the surface of our planets to be rough, which resources should we use? We will also be learning to follow simple recipes.

Physical Development

In our PE sessions with Mr Butler we will continue to develop our coordination and spatial awareness. In particular, we will be focussing on our throwing and catching skills, using balls of different sizes. Back in class, we will continue to develop our fine motor skills, forming letters with the correct size and orientation and taking part in regular Marvellous Mark Making sessions to help us to secure this key skill.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be meeting our next learning superhero, Claudia Curiosity, whose powers are questioning, exploring and risk taking. We will learn to complete challenges with independence and use perseverance to keep trying even when things seem difficult - and then celebrate our accomplishments when we succeed.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



JOURNEY INTO SPACE!

RECEPTION - SPRING 2025

Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, we will be exploring ordering, comparing and positional language. We will begin by returning to our key counting skills, counting all the objects in a group, recognising that the last word we say is the number in the group (called *cardinality*) and using the words *more*, *less* and *equal* to compare sets of objects. We will then move on to the language of position and direction, using words like *in*, *on*, *under*, *next to*, *beside*, *above*, *below*, *on top of*, *between*, *up*, *down*, *forwards*, *backwards*, *through*, *under* and *over* to talk about objects and actions. Finally, we will focus on beginning to record calculations using standard mathematical symbols.

Understanding the world

Linked to our topic, we will be developing our understanding of space and planets, beginning to understand that stars and planets exist far beyond our own. We will think about the reasons why astronauts need rockets to go into space and then wear space suits to keep themselves safe, and we will talk about the reasons why people might want to go into space.

We will celebrate Chinese New Year on January 29th, making decorations and sharing food, and will talk about other festivals and special days that are important to members of our community. Finally, in Forest School we will be exploring the changing weather and seasons.

Communication and Language

We will continue to develop our vocabulary through our words and signs of the week, all linking in with the two stories we are focussing on this half-term: *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Alan Ahlberg and *Aliens Love Underpants* by Claire Freedman. We will listen to a range of different music and think about what it would sound like to be onboard a rocket or floating around in space. We will also take part in lots of hot-seating activities so we can develop our understanding of how to ask (and answer) questions, as well as working out how characters feel at key points in each story.

Literacy

- Sharing stories is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about the story. Can they remember phrases from the story? Which characters do they particularly like?
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have provided guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Expressive Arts and Design

- Act out stories together, sing and dance to favourite songs or encourage your child to tell you stories linked to their play.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you - and maybe have a go at making something similar together at home.

Physical Development

- Support your child in using mark making to share their ideas. These might not be recognisable letter shapes yet - any marks that have meaning to them count.
- Cook together, helping your child to learn how to use kitchen implements safely and developing fine-motor skills.
- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own, put their own shoes on and brush their teeth twice a day.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Play turn-taking games together, and support your child in learning to wait for their turn and listen to others.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings - can they name the emotion? What does it 'feel like' inside? What has made them feel that way?

Ideas for supporting learning at home:



JOURNEY INTO SPACE!

RECEPTION - SPRING 2025

Mathematics

- Keep practicing counting, whenever and wherever possible - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Practice writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.
- Compare groups of objects to find which is larger - are there more toys in the box or on the floor? Do we have more teddies or cars? Practice counting out the number in the group and use the language of *more*, *less* and *equal* to compare them.

Understanding the world

- Go out in the evenings and look at the stars together - talk about the patterns you can see in them and see if you can spot the same stars on different nights. Help your child to begin to understand how incredibly far away these stars are and see what else you can see in the night sky, like the changing shape of the moon.
- Look for (and talk about) changes linked to the colder weather - what different clothes do we wear? Why does the car ice-up? What different things do we do? Can you spot any signs of spring?
- Talk about the special occasions, festivals and events that your family will be celebrating this term.

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Visit the library and see what books you can find that your child recognises already. Are there any they can retell? It's quick and easy to sign-up, and you can access a huge number of free ebooks and audiobooks. www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives