

Autumn Term Second Half

Key texts we are sharing this half term

How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers– our Talk for Writing text.

The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers [The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers - YouTube](#)

Zim Zam Zoom – poetry book

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown [Goodnight Moon - Animated Children's Book - YouTube](#)

Whatever Next by Jill Murphy [Whatever Next by Jill Murphy - YouTube](#)

Katie and the Starry Night by James Mayhew [Katie and the Starry Night - YouTube](#)

Junk DNA by Clare Thompson

Key songs and rhymes we will be learning

Counting rhymes –5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer

Space songs and rhymes – Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Zoom Zoom Zoom, Rocket into Space [Rocket into space - BBC Teach](#)

Maths

We are developing our noticing skills every day, subitising amounts to 5. Subitising is seeing amounts without counting them first. The children use arrangements of dots as well as resources and real life images to hone their subitising skills.

We are also practising how to write each digit from 0-9

We will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes and creating space pictures with these.

We will be using language linked to measuring distance and length – long, short, far, near, metres, ruler, metre stick, tape measure – and finding ways to measure the distance a rocket has travelled.



Drawing Club sessions

Book – Small's Big Dream by Manjeet Mann

Vocabulary – awe, marvel, scaled, disappeared, courage

Book – A Dark, Dark Tale by Ruth Brown

Vocabulary – shocked, terrified, isolated, dreary, shining

Book – How to catch a star by Oliver Jeffers

Vocabulary – galaxy, adore, glimmering, searching, acquire, elevated

Bat Fink cartoon - BAT FINK – THE SHORT CIRCUIT CASE
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpGk7p7QPjk>

Vocabulary – rapid, sidekick, hurdle, spark, rescue

Ways to support at home

Use arrangements of things at home (toys, food, natural objects you see on a walk) and ask your child what they can see and what they notice. Can they subitise without counting the objects?

Use the Read Write Inc sound book to practise saying, reading and writing the sounds we are learning in school.

Talk to your child about the vocabulary they have learnt in Drawing Club – can they remember the action that goes with each one?

Promoting Independence

We are encouraging the children to use their knife and fork to eat their school lunches. Please help your child to practise using these at meal times at home.

Our topic focus – Seasons – getting darker and changes to our days

Understanding the World – sources of light – the moon and stars being reflectors, understanding how changes in season effect the natural world around them

Becoming an astronomer -

Nocturnal animals – who wakes up as we go to bed?

What are the planets called and what are they like?

People and Communities – figures in history who have travelled into space – Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake as well as animals that have made the journey.

RE – Stories of Jesus helping others, Baptism – what happens and why?, The story of the Nativity

Expressive Arts and Design – Starry Night by Van Gogh, Junk DNA pictures, designing and making rockets, listening to Underneath the Stars by Kate Rusby
[Underneath the Stars by Kate Rusby, with images from the HST - YouTube](#)

Physical development and writing

Gross Motor – Space Dance - [Blast Off! | Preschool Dance | Space Song | Kids Songs by READY SET DANCE - YouTube](#)

Cosmic Kids Yoga – Space Picnic [Yoga Time! | Space Picnic - Kids Yoga and Nursery Rhymes - YouTube](#)

Finger rhymes – 5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer, Peg Chatter – making two pegs chat to eachother by opening and closing them

Pen disco from gross movements to fine pen movements

Writing opportunities

We will be practicing to write our first names using correct letter formation and a capital letter at the beginning.

- Completing space missions to earn our Astronaut badge and the chance to go to the moon!
- Invitations for our Nativity play