



Orchard Class

Term 3

This term's focus topic is:

"What is Out There?"

Communication & Language and Literacy

This term we will be reading non-fiction books all about outer space, finding out key information about what life beyond our world is like and also allowing the children to find out what they would like to know about Outer Space.

As a whole class we will be basing a lot of our Literacy work on Space stories we read together, such as "A trip to the moon," "Whatever Next," and "Back to Earth with a Bump."

And of course, all of this will be alongside our Phonics work which will continue and move onto alternative spelling patterns, high frequency words and tricky words recognition.

Mathematics

I am sure the children are going to love counting down to blast off this term when it comes to recapping our one less than work and learning about subtraction ("take away"). We will also be learning how to measure weight using non-standard units, as this will coincide really well with the idea of weightlessness on the moon. We will also focus on shape during the term which will develop into finding out about 3D shapes too.

Understanding the World

Where is space? What would we find in space? What sort of people go into space? How do they get there? These are but a few of the key questions we are going to be trying to find the answer to this term as well as performing lots of very fun space themed science experiments which I am sure will have the children bursting with excitement. We will be finding out about life on the moon and also lots of facts about the planets in the solar system. I am sure you will know our solar system song by the end of the term as well as the children do.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

The children are going to be using their thoughts and feelings this term to talk about their likes and dislikes as well as similarities and differences. They will be encouraged to think about what life would be like on the moon, if they lived there what would they take with them and how they think an alien would feel if they visited planet Earth. We will also be meeting Sporkle the alien who needs lots of help to figure out everyday activities on planet Earth. It could be very interesting to hear the children's ideas!

Creative Development

This term is going to be full of "out of this world" creations using very different materials - miniature recycled rockets designed by the children, play dough aliens, planet collages, astronaut role-play resources and our very own large scale class role-play rocket.

Physical Development

This term we are going to be focusing on the three words: "Crawl," "Climb" and "Collect." This learning theme gives children an opportunity to develop key fundamental movement skills. Through crawling and climbing, it will help children hone spatial and directional awareness, and boost physical skills such as core stability, balance and hand and foot coordination.



Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 6th January - First day of Term 3
Monday 12th January - After school clubs to start this week
Tuesday 27th January - Oral Health Workshops in school for all children
Friday 13th February - Last day of Term 3
Monday 23rd February - First day of Term 4



Just a few notes



Recycled resources needed please

As part of our space topic this term, the children are going to be making their very own model space crafts. We do have various containers and materials which the children will be able to use for this, however if anyone has any unwanted or finished cartons, washing up liquid bottles or containers of any shapes and sizes (in particular cylinders or bottles, tops/lids), they would be very much appreciated. Please could you ensure all liquid containers are thoroughly washed out to ensure the safety of the children. Many thanks.

Spellings & Homework

During this term, we will now be starting on spellings with our Reception children, in order to improve our writing skills and awareness of high frequency and tricky words. Spellings will be given out on a Friday each week, for a spelling challenge (completed in a very relaxed, low key manner for all children) to take place the following Friday within school. The spellings have a practice sheet with them in order for children to be able to learn the words throughout the week. The sheet also mentions three other ways that your child could practice:

Back write: writing sounds and words on a partners back with our imaginary pencils.

Sky write: The same as above but writing the word in the air.

Rainbow write: Writing the word on a sheet of paper and going over it in different colours over and over.

Each child will also still be given their own reading book daily, which we encourage to be read as often as possible, and ideally every night. Reading books will be changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday as long as Parents/Carers have completed the reading record to show that it is complete. Thank you to everyone who is reading regularly with their children at home - this is really beneficial for the children and it clearly shows in the progress they are making. Mrs Bray will also continue with Guided reading groups every Wednesday.

Uniform & belongings

As we are experiencing much colder, wetter weather at the moment and over the next few terms, please could we ask that all children come to school in a jumper or cardigan as well as a coat and hat ready for them to use at play times.

Please could we also ask that all your child's belongings and items of clothing are clearly named (in particular fleeces, cardigans and jumpers) to prevent them getting mixed up and lost easily. We do try and encourage our children to place their uniform on their pegs to keep them organised however at this young age it can be difficult and things do get lost at times.

Chickenpox

We start this term off with multiple cases of Chickenpox in Orchard class. Please can everyone be vigilant over the next week or so for any new spots that may appear on your child. Many children may have already had chickenpox, although over the last few years, there have been quite a few times where children have got them for a second time so this does include everyone please. If your child does get chickenpox, they must stay off school until their last spot has crusted over please.

Change

I would like to take this opportunity to please assure you all that as we move closer to the time where I will no longer be Orchard class teacher, we will be making sure that the children are supported throughout this period and that future changes will not impact on their development. Myself and Mrs Devine will be working hard to ensure that our new member of staff settles in and that all children are well prepared for the transition. I may not be the teacher from term 4 onwards, but I will still be a frequent presence in the Orchard classroom and with the children. Thank you to everyone for your kind words and support over the last few months.