

# Reception Newsletter

## To infinity and beyond

### Driving Question: How can we, as engineers, create a rocket to get our stranded alien back home?

Our main topic in Term 3 is all about space and we will be learning the story 'Whatever Next'.

#### Focus questions this term:

Week 1 – What do I celebrate in my family that is different from other families?

Week 2- Which changes can I describe that I have seen this week? (cooking, seasons)

Week 3- How many different greedy sounds can I remember and use?

Week 4- How could you explain to an alien how to make friends?

Week 5- How is Chinese New Year celebrated?

Week 6- How have you changed any ideas this week? (story or rocket)

Week 7- How can I use my hands in different ways when handling different objects? (balls, scissors, hammers)

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of your support this term. It has been a very busy term! A special thanks goes to you all for providing such amazing outfits for our Christmas Nativity. We really hope you enjoyed seeing your child/children perform- we are all very proud of them. Below are some photos from Term 2 to remind us of all the things we have been doing.



#### **A few reminders for term 3:**

- Just to remind you that you will receive a newsletter every term. This will be available on the website under our class page. Please check this page regularly as we will upload the texts we will be learning and photos of what we have achieved. (If you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the office know.)
- PE: Peach and Pear class's P.E session will continue on a Wednesday and Forest School on a Monday. We suggest leaving their PE kits in school all term so they always have a spare set of clothes or their kit for any extra sporting events that may take place.
- Homework will need to be brought into school on a Thursday as normal and handed back out on a Friday.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This term we will be focusing on talking about how they and others show different feelings. We will discuss different strategies to solve disputes they have with their peers and the right way to behave if somebody doesn't do as we expect them to. We will also be talking about what we are good at and share these ideas with our peers. In our carpet sessions we will be encouraging the children to have an opinion and model the correct way to express these opinions. We are going to be talking about being **resilient and how to persevere** this term. We will talk about what this means with the children in terms of, not giving up, trying and trying again and having the mindset that they will be able to achieve if they try hard and do not give up.

**At home you could:** talk about different events, stories and experiences in your child's life and encourage them to say what they like and dislike. You could also ask them what they feel they are good at and encourage them to be proud of their successes and talents. They could also take photos of their favourite activities or places and help them to describe their personal preferences and opinions. We would love to see all of the things you do at home on tapestry.

## **Maths**

This term we will have a focus on the number 0. The children will already have some practical understanding of 'nothing there' or 'all gone'. Here, they learn that the number name zero and the numeral 0 can be used to represent this idea. Last term we focused on our deep understanding of numbers 1-5. This term we will be using that knowledge to recall number bonds to 5. Finally, we will focus on numbers 6,7,8 gaining a deep understanding of their composition, comparing quantities and finding the total amount through addition and subtraction.

**At home you could:** Can you practise counting and recognising numbers to 20? It is also important to be able to count back from 20 to 0 independently. This will help support subtraction skills. Have a look at these sites to help you at home <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/helicopter-rescue> or <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/caterpillar-ordering>

This website uses a 5 frame to support number bonds and allows the children to explore different ways to make 5.  
[5 Frame - Number bonds](#)

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

This term we will be turning our topic area into a 'space station' where the children can imagine being an astronaut or an engineer. Finally, we will introduce our driving question this term 'How can we, as engineers, get our stranded alien back home? The children will be planning, designing and testing their rockets. They will have to think about what they want it to look like, what the best materials are to use and whether they think it will function for the purpose.

**At home you could:** design and make their own rocket, paint or draw a picture of what they think space looks like or look at some pictures of some planets and try to make their own.



## **Physical Development**

In P.E this term we will be using a variety of different sized balls to play games and practice controlling these when doing different movements including, throwing, catching, aiming, batting and kicking. In class we will continue to develop fine motor skills, these are the ability to make movements using the small muscles in our hands and wrists. These are needed to support pencil control and letter formation. Each week the children enjoy 'Fine Motor Fridays' where they complete tasks designed to promote fine motor skills.

**At home you could:** Give children opportunities for fine motor development e.g. using scissors, buttoning up clothes, threading beads, playing with play dough and drawing pictures.

## **Understanding the World**

This term we will begin by looking at celebrations. We want the children to recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways and at different points in the year. Please upload any photos of any significant events and celebrations to Tapestry for the children to share with their peers. Our pupils will also be looking at how our environment has changed since last term now that it is winter. They will understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them and changes states of matter. For example, we will look at ice melting and the wider issue of global warming.

**At home you could:** Give children opportunities to explore freezing water to create ice and then melting it again. Also while on a walk can you notice any signs of winter e.g. frost, bare trees, few insects/flowers, hibernation.

## **Communication and Language, Reading and Writing**

The children worked very hard last term to learn the first set of sounds and complete their homework; thank you for supporting your child with this. Most children are confident to recognise these sounds now and so will begin to learn set 2 sounds. We will continue to practise our sight words (red words) and learn some new ones. We will also be practising to read and write words, phrases and sentences. It is important the children can read their own writing work back and show an understanding of what they have read.

**At home you could:** Practice writing their name, start to write simple phrases and sentences (if they are ready) e.g. try to encourage them to help you write your shopping list, or write their own birthday card for a relative.

You could also try this: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html>



## **HOMEWORK**

Homework sound books will continue to go home weekly (due in on Thursdays) please can you ensure your child is learning to read the red words we set them as these are important to help them start to read books and write sentences. You can use this game to help with reading skills - <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/SentSubPhase3.html> . Also, if your child is now receiving a levelled reading book please make sure you are reading this. Please keep this in their book bag so that they can be changed weekly and we can hear them read throughout the week.

### **Important Dates:**

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	School returns for children in years Reception – Year 6.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	EYFS bedtime stories
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February:	Last day of Term 3
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February:	INSET DAY no children in school
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Term 4 starts for all children

### **Whatever Next!**

“Can I go to the moon?” **asked** Baby Bear.

“No its bath time,” said Mrs Bear “and you will need a rocket.”

**So** Baby Bear found a rocket **under** the stairs.

**Next** he found a space helmet **on** the draining board.

**Then** he found a pair of space boots **next to** the front door.

**Finally**, he packed his teddy and some food for the journey.

Baby Bear took off **up** the chimney and met a friendly Owl on the way.

Up they flew, past millions of stars until at last they landed on the moon.

There was nobody there and nothing to see.

**So** Baby Bear and the Owl had picnic.

“We’d better go, my bath must be ready now,” said Baby Bear.

Down they flew, past millions of stars until at last they landed on the living room floor.

“Look at the state of you!” said Mrs Bear.

“I found a rocket and went to the moon!” said Baby Bear.

“You and your stories, whatever next?” said Mrs Bear.