

Willow Spring 1 Topic: Our place in space, MTP

Intent	Implementation
<p>While beyond immediate experience, the appeal of space – it’s mystery and majesty, it’s potential for adventure and exploration – is rarely lost on a child. Prompting both playful, imaginative responses and ‘big questions’ too, space is a rich area for learning, enquiry and creativity.</p> <p>Our topic builds on a child’s natural curiosity and playfulness, as well as on an innate capacity for – and joy in – learning and knowledge, as they are guided to explore different themes and focuses on the subject. Accompanying stories and non-fiction texts, linked activities and play-opportunities will further encourage engagement with and an understanding of what lies beyond our planet, as well as helping to build a range of skills and personal qualities.</p> <p>The topic supports children to make progress in all 7 areas outlined in the EYFS Statutory framework as well as develop a love of learning, as they ask / answer questions, apply their imagination and develop their critical thinking skills.</p>	<p>Weekly themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy New Year! Celebrating one more journey around the Sun. • Aspiring astronauts... • ...and remarkable rockets! • Moon myths and storytelling traditions • Our Solar System • Back down to Earth: What a wonderful world! <p>Topic Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box rockets to the moon! • Historic witness: moon landing • Solar system recreation • Sharing celebrations: New Year celebrations, including Chinese & Japanese New Year traditions; Holi

Topic texts to include...



Impact:

*I know that a year is the length of time it takes for the Earth to travel once around the sun. *I know that many people celebrate a New Year, though on different days and in different ways. *I listened to stories written by / about some amazing people that dreamed of one day going into space. Spoiler alert: they became astronauts! - though not without hard work and determination. *I learned about roaring rockets - and can tell you about the historic Apollo 11 moon mission. *I learned some interesting moon facts and listened to some fantastical moon stories too, making up one of my own! *I found out about the planets in our solar system and the sun at its centre and played my part in a 'solar system recreation' in the playground. *I completed lots of creative activities – including a DT moon-landing egg-drop challenge ('...the eagle egg has landed!') – it was exciting finding out if my design worked ...or not (and why). *I used music to help me imagine what the planets might be like, listening to Holste's Planet Suite *I imagined hosting a Martian visitor, and showing them around my beautiful, colourful, varied home planet. *I know that Earth is unique and precious for its ability to sustain life and know how important it is that we take care of it.

**** I loved learning about my world (and beyond!), asking questions, applying my imagination and developing my thinking skills!"***

7 Areas of Learning:

Communication and Language: *Listening, attention, understanding. *Speaking

Children will have regular opportunities to listen and respond – to teacher-led inputs and stories, to questions and instructions relating to topic theme, and to develop and share their own ideas. Topic-related vocabulary taught, modelled and applied meaningfully during play and conversation. Play opportunities and linked activities (including visits out / visitors in) will help extend engagement.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: *Self-Regulation *Managing Self *Building Relationships

*Daily opportunities to build self-regulatory behaviours, including good listening habits – giving focused attention to the teacher and responding appropriately, including following instructions. *The value of aspiration, resilience and hard work underpin several of our stories, which will include diverse role-models, both real (Chris Hadfield, Mae Jemison, the crew of the Apollo 11) and fictional (Rocket). *Dialogic storytelling will support children to see how the values of aspiration, resilience and hard work can also help us achieve our dreams and goals - in space or elsewhere * Value of teamwork and collaboration will be stressed and tested in our 'astronaut training' activities. * During whole-class activities, inc. building box-rockets and during a DT egg-drop challenge, children will share resources and act cooperatively / in partnership with their classmates.

Physical Development: *Gross Motor Skills. *Fine Motor Skills.

Opportunities to continue finessing motor skills abound, with many planned and resourced activities, including 'astronaut training' activities (with a fine motor focus) and several centred-on drawing and crafting. Children are encouraged to approach tasks independently and resourcefully, with a priority given to 'process' over 'product'. *Weekly writing tasks support children's development in handwriting and penmanship. *Playground games and action songs will help develop gross motor skills and whole-body coordination.

Literacy: *Comprehension *Word reading *Writing.

Dialogical readings of texts will help children acquire literary skills, including the ability to infer and predict, and to help develop a rich vocabulary. Story-talk and the use of critical thinking questions to help establish, test and extend comprehension (and speaking skills). Play opportunities and linked activities help children demonstrate their understanding. Phonics and writing taught separately but integrated where meaningful and appropriate and with differentiated support given (note: a range of writing resources on open access and children encouraged and supported to build it into their play).

Maths: *Number. *Numerical Pattern.

Mathematical concepts such as comparison (noticing similarities and differences), pattern (spotting pattern, making and correcting patterns), and sequencing (following instructions and working through a process) will run through the topic. Children will have lots of opportunities to count back to zero as we play rocket ships!

Understanding the World: *Past and Present. *People, Culture and Communities. *The Natural World.

Children continue to build a sense of time (past, present, future) and of the passing of time, as they learn about the natural cycles of/within a year. We learn about several astronauts, finding out about the challenges they had to overcome to achieve their goal. Our learning about the historic Apollo 11 moon mission will be enhanced by a visiting school grandparent who will share their recollections of the event and from the time. We learn about differing New Year traditions, and about the Hindu festival of Holi. Children listen to moon myths and legends from around the world. The wonders of our own planet are accentuated by our learning about the contrasting environment of Mars, and about the other planets in our solar system. Our duty of care for Earth, and for the creatures we share it with will be highlighted.

Expressive arts and design: *Creating with materials. *Being imaginative and expressive.

Children will participate in many creative activities over the course of the topic, including several junk modelling / DT challenges. To accompany an egg-drop challenge we focus on the properties of different 'junk' materials thinking about how they can help us meet the brief of protecting an egg from a fall. Children will lead their own play, but role-play opportunities might easily encompass dressing up and imaginative play around the theme of astronauts and rockets and Martians too. Children will have regular opportunities to sing together, and to learn a number of traditional nursery rhymes – several with a space theme.

