



Theme

In this exciting "Space" unit, children will embark on an imaginative journey through the solar system, exploring planets, stars, rockets, and the wonder of space travel. Through hands-on activities like building rockets, creating constellations, and exploring space movements, children will deepen their understanding of the world around them. By learning about astronauts, space missions, and the mysteries of the night sky, they will foster curiosity, teamwork, and a love of discovery as they explore the universe!

Literacy

In Reception, children will enjoy reading space stories such as "The Way Back Home" by Oliver Jeffers and "How to Catch a Star". They'll practice letter recognition and phonics by identifying the sounds in space-related words like "moon" and "star." Writing activities will focus on creating simple sentences about space, like describing a journey to the moon or the features of a planet.

Phonics

Read, Write Inc Phonics and Daily Supported Reading
Children will continue to have daily streamed phonics and reading lessons. Please ensure they are reading for 20 minutes every evening and this is being recorded in their reading records. Children will be reassessed for their levels towards the end of the term.

Religious Education

Christianity: Why do Christians believe that Jesus is special?
Week 1: Who is special to you?
Week 2: Why do Christians believe they are special to Jesus?
Week 3: What made Jesus a special child for Christians?
Week 4 & 5: What made Jesus a special grown up?
Week 6: What does Jesus teach Christians?

Mathematics

Reception children will explore space-themed math concepts, such as counting down for rocket launches and sorting planets by size. They'll engage in activities that introduce basic addition and subtraction by counting astronauts or rocket parts. Hands-on activities will help children develop a strong understanding of numbers, shapes, and measurement in a fun, space-related context.

Music

In "Singing Skills 2: Match my Voice," Reception children continue their exploration of singing and pitch-matching. With focus on pitch-matching, children delve deeper into understanding and controlling their singing voices. They learn to match their voices with different pitches, fostering musical expression and vocal confidence.

Understanding the World

Children will learn about the planets, the moon, and stars, using books and videos to explore how astronauts travel to space. They'll explore space technology, watch videos of rocket launches, and learn about how astronauts live and work in space. These experiences will deepen their understanding of the solar system and how space exploration has shaped our knowledge of the universe.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will create space art using different materials like glitter, foil, and paint. They'll build rockets with recyclable materials and design astronaut helmets. Through role play and creative arts, children will express their ideas and creativity, constructing a space-themed class mural and performing space-inspired dances and songs.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

In Reception, children will explore teamwork through role-play as astronauts on a mission, emphasizing cooperation and communication. Activities like presenting a "planet" they are responsible for will help children develop their confidence and practice speaking in front of others. Group discussions and projects will reinforce the value of teamwork and mutual support.

Physical Development

Reception children will engage in space-themed physical activities, including "floating" in space and making large circular movements to mimic planetary orbits. They'll practice fine motor skills by drawing and labeling rockets. They'll also develop coordination and balance through exercises such as "astronaut stretches" and obstacle courses designed to simulate space exploration.

Communication and Language

Reception children will engage with books like "The Darkest Dark" by Chris Hadfield and "There's No Place Like Space" by Tish Rabe, discussing key vocabulary related to space. Through story retelling, space-themed discussions, and role-play, children will develop their speaking and listening skills, expanding their vocabulary with space-related terms such as "orbit," "rocket," and "planet."

Trips and Visits

St Barnabas Service—30th January 2025
St Philip's Service—3rd March 2025
St Barnabas Service—3rd April 2025