

St. Luke's C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first half of the Spring Term. Our topic this half term is **Space!** We have really enjoyed getting to know all the children and families and are looking forward to further developing these relationships. We would like to welcome Francesca in our team who will be working in both nursery and reception. Thank you all for adhering to the guidance for dropping off and collecting your children. We know this is difficult, but you are all helping us to keep the children safe. Due to the surge in the Omicron variant, please can we request that you wear a mask at the gate unless exempt, just as an extra precaution. Please can we ask that all parents/ carers place your child's name in their jumpers and cardigans as we are developing a large collection of these and the children are not able to identify their own when asked about it. Can we also please ask that you ensure you are sending your children in with a water bottle please.

The following is an overview of what your child will be doing this half term:

Prime Areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development will be looking at developing the children's understanding of emotions, their own and beginning to look at the perspective of others and considering why they may be feeling a certain way. We will also be looking at the idea of rules, thinking about the rules we have in school and why they are so important (i.e. they keep us safe). We are going to explore the idea of perseverance and how we can stay strong in the face of challenges. This will be done by exploring the idea of growth mindset and also by working as a team/ partner to solve different puzzles and problems. Learning through child-initiated play is at the heart of what we do at St. Luke's and this half term all the staff will be focusing on how to engage in activities and work alongside other children to create and develop play and creative projects.

Communication and Language will focus on the use of questioning, more specifically how we use this to discover more information. We will teach specific vocabulary to push challenge children and stretch their thinking. We will also be using communication as a key area to help us with the idea of perseverance and working as a team to solve challenges. Children will be expanding their language through role playing space stations and talking to Aliens in space.

In **Physical Development** we will continue to develop children's independence in dressing, toileting and feeding themselves. Our large spaces both indoors and outdoors allow for the children to explore and use large and small resources to develop their muscle control and work as a team. We will be beginning to explore how our bodies can move in different ways like space walking and alien dancing. We will also create space obstacle courses to promote good balancing skills and agility. We will continue to create our own planets, aliens, pants and spaceships using pencils, scissors and small materials.



Specific Areas:

In **Literacy** we will be sharing stories about different aspects of space. We will have stories about astronauts, adventures into Space and books about the planets themselves, including **Whatever Next!** and **Astro Girl**. We will include non-fiction texts into our literacy lessons, using these to create class fact books. The children will continue to practice their name writing in Nursery and in Reception we are beginning journal writing each day, so the children will start to practice writing full sentences. We will create rocket trails and star constellations to develop good pencil accuracy. Phonics will carry on as a daily lesson in reception allowing children to develop reading skills and letter formation. Nursery will continue to develop rhymes and songs, work on patterns and try to hear some rhyming words. Children will also begin to have a go at acting out the stories we are hearing and work on sequencing them.

This half term in **Maths** we will focus on measure and number. The children will count aliens, rocket ships, stars, planets and much more. In Nursery we are focusing on numbers 1-5 and in Reception we are looking up to 10! We will look at measure by creating big and small planets and by taking rockets on long and short journeys.

Understanding the World will entail the children discussing the Space environment, using non fiction books and videos to help them. They will also begin to think about different occupations, as we look at astronauts, scientists and mechanics.

Expressive Arts and Design is a part of the curriculum we see everywhere in our classrooms! The children will be creating collages of different textures to represent the planets and will be making rockets out of junk modelling. In both, Nursery and Reception we have role play areas inside and outside to allow the children to act out different times such as our igloo in Reception that has now become a Space Station on the moon.

As of the moment swimming is still cancelled for Reception. We will update you on this as soon as we get more information.

Activities for you and your child at home:

- Reading books with your child about Space, including fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Create some lovely Space artwork. We would love to see pictures of what children have made!
- Look out at the sky in the night and ask your child what they can see!
- Encourage your child to try writing their name (or the first letter of their name) anywhere they can, paper, chalk on the ground or even in the tub. Challenge them to help write the shopping list or even a letter to a friend/family member.
- Reception: Practice their segmenting by asking children to sound out words in books and also things they can see in the house (such as c-u-p).
- Start measuring things around the house! You can measure in footsteps, fingerprints or even bodies!
- Become an astronaut! Find some videos on YouTube about all things space and see if you and your children can walk just like an astronaut! We would love to see some videos of this!

If you are able to take some photos and send them in to us on Class Dojo we would love to see your work!

We look forward to another amazing half term and if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to email us.

Kind Regards,
EYU team

