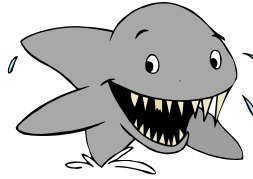




# Rye Community Primary School

"A Gateway to learning"



Dear Parents/Carers,

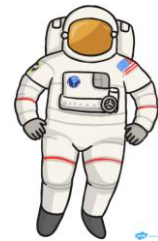
Welcome back, we hope that you had a wonderful half term. We are excited to share our Term 2 topic with you.

## Term 2 Learning – Star Gazers



Space is the area beyond the upper limits of Earth's atmosphere. It is where all of the asteroids, comets, planets, stars, solar systems and galaxies in our universe are found. We are going to be gazing at stars, putting on our (hypothetical) space suits and riding our rocket ships into space.

**The big idea:** We live on a single planet in the universe, but what about all the other planets in our solar system? We find out how mankind has explored space and discovered new planets and theories about our universe.



**The big questions:** How have we found out about these planets? How did we visit these planets to find out more?

## English

Alongside our topic theme, our reading texts this term are 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce, 'Journey into Space' by Michael Bright, and 'Watcher of the Skies: Poems about Space and Aliens'.

Our writing texts this term are 'War of the Worlds' by H.G.Wells and 'Watcher of the Skies: Poems about Space and Aliens'.



Dolphins, Marlin & Sharks.



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### Mathematics

In our maths lessons, we will be covering a range of mathematical topics, including division, factors, common factors, prime numbers, square numbers and cubed numbers. We will then be moving on to learning about fractions.

#### How you can help your child

- Make sure your child reads daily and discuss the stories in terms of reasons for characters' actions and reasons for the author's choices of vocabulary. Don't forget to record reading sessions in reading records.
- Discuss meanings of any new vocabulary your child comes across.
- Support with any English / Grammar and Maths homework.
- Test children on their weekly spellings.
- Practise times tables on Times Table Rock Stars and orally.

### PE

Year 5/6 will be doing PE on Mondays and Thursdays, so children should wear their PE kit into school on those days.

### Homework

Homework will be given out on a Friday and is expected to be in by the following Wednesday. It is important that homework is completed as this will help support the learning they have been doing in school. The children will also be given 10 spellings to learn each week which they will be tested on each Friday. Please support your child as they learn these.

#### How you can help your child:

**Termly Homework Project - Please choose from one of the following:**

1. Create a power point about space.
2. Create an amazing poster to show the wonderful things about space.
3. Build a rocket ship through junk modelling.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us through Class Dojo.  
Thank you for your continuing support.

Year 5/6 team

Dolphins, Marlin & Sharks.



# Space and the Solar System Glossary

## Term and Definition

**A**

**agriculturalist (noun)**  
someone who is an expert in agriculture, similar to a farmer

**antimicrobial solution (noun)**  
liquid or spray that kills or slows the spread of viruses and bacteria



**architect (noun)**  
someone who is responsible for planning, designing and supervising the construction of a new building

**astronomer (noun)**  
someone who studies or is an expert in astronomy

**astronomy (noun)**  
the part of science to do with space and the universe

**atmosphere (noun)**  
the collection of gases that is held by gravity around a planet, forming air

**C**

**colony (noun)**  
a group or race of people living together in a foreign place

**D**

**dwarf planet (noun)**  
a smaller celestial body similar to that of a planet but lacking some of the criteria to qualify as being classified a planet, such as Pluto

**E**

**Earth (proper noun)**  
the planet on which we all currently live; the third furthest planet from the Sun

**equator (noun)**  
an imaginary line around the middle of a planet which is of equal distance from the north and south poles

**G**

**galaxy (noun)**  
one huge group of stars and planets, along with gas and dust; Earth is in the galaxy commonly known as the Milky Way, which is one of billions that make up the entire universe

**gravity (noun)**  
a natural force that causes attraction of matter towards each other; the force that causes objects to fall to the ground as they are pulled towards Earth



**J**

**Jupiter (proper noun; planet)**  
the fifth planet from the Sun and the largest in our solar system

**M**

**Marineris Valles (proper noun; place)**  
a system of canyons that runs along the surface of Mars, near to its equator



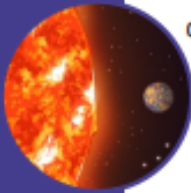
# Space and the Solar System Glossary

## Term and Definition

**Mars (proper noun; planet)**  
the fourth planet from the Sun in our solar system; the 'Red Planet'

**martian (noun; adjective)**  
referring to something from or relating to the planet Mars; fictional or supposed inhabitants of Mars

**Mercury (proper noun; planet)**  
the closest planet to the Sun and the smallest in our solar system



**microgravity (noun)**  
referring to the presence of very little or weak gravity, such as in an orbiting spacecraft where things appear to 'float' in the air

**moon (noun)**  
a natural satellite which orbits the Earth or other planet

N

**Neptune (proper noun; planet)**  
the eighth and furthest planet from the Sun in our solar system

O

**orbit (noun)**  
the regular, repeating curved path of one object (such as a moon, planet or spacecraft) around another one

**orbit (verb)**  
to move in a regular path around another object, held in position by the object's gravitational pull

P

**planet (noun)** a large object, round or nearly round, that orbits a sun

**Pluto (proper noun; dwarf planet)**  
once classified as the ninth planet in our solar system but now recategorized as a dwarf planet

**posterity (noun)**  
all future generations of people

R

**regolith (noun)**  
the layer of loose soil or other solid material covering solid rock surfaces

S

**satellite (noun)**  
any object or body in space that orbits something else, for example: the moon is a satellite of Earth

**Saturn (proper noun; planet)**  
the sixth planet from the Sun in our solar system, famous for its distinctive rings





# Space and the Solar System Glossary

## Term and Definition

### **sol (noun)**

the duration of a day on Mars (37 minutes longer than an Earth day because Mars takes 24 hours and 37 minutes to spin on its axis); see also yestersol

### **spacecraft (noun)**

a vehicle used for travelling in space



### **Sun (proper noun)**

the star at the centre of our solar system, around which Earth and all other planets orbit; the source of heat and light for our planet

## U

### **universe (noun)**

all existing matter, including all stars, planets and galaxies and the entirety of space

### **Uranus (proper noun; planet)**

the seventh planet from the Sun; a gas planet with a number of known rings and moons

## V

### **Venus (proper noun; planet)**

the second planet from the Sun, similar in size and mass to Earth

**volcanologist (noun)** a geologist who specialises in studying volcanoes and the process involved in their formation or eruptions

## Y

**voyage (noun)** a long journey, usually by ship or spacecraft across sea or space

**yestersol (noun)** the day before the current Mars day; see also sol

