



# Rye Community Primary School

"A Gateway to learning"



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to term 3! Well done for a fabulous start to the year. We hope you had a well-rested half term.

## Term 2 Learning in Year 5

This term our topic is 'Star Gazers'. Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the classes Marlin and Jellyfish. Their ongoing mission, to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new information, new concepts. To boldly go where no child has gone before! We will be investigating the 8 planets, working scientifically to explore gravity, as well as discovering the significant individuals that impacted our understanding of Space today.

## PE

Mr Sayer will take the children for P.E every Friday. Please ensure that your child has a **named** P.E kit.

## Mathematics

We will be starting the term by working on addition and subtraction, ensuring written and mental skills have been consolidated. We will be working our way up to adding and subtracting 5 and 6 digit numbers. The term will then finish with multiplication and division.

### How you can help your child

- Look for opportunities to talk about maths in the everyday environment.
- Encourage children to explain the key maths vocabulary they have learnt during that week.
- Support with any maths homework.
- Support with learning the multiplication tables that they are working on in class (up to 12 x).
- When possible, allow your child to access Times Table Rockstars to aid their times table recall.

## English

The book we are studying this term is 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. We will be continuing our 'VIPERS' reading comprehension, as discussed in Parents Evening. Please continue to help your child by looking at the key reading skills, and encouraging them to infer, predict and summarise from a text where possible. We will begin with a non-fiction writing unit, looking at newspaper reports based around the moon landing. Following this will be a focus on poetry, where the children will have the opportunity to write their own space-themed narrative and free-verse poems to perform. Finally, the term will finish with the children putting their writing skills into practice with a sci-fi narrative.

### How you can help your child

- Make sure your child reads daily. Don't forget to record reading sessions in the Reading Record booklets, especially on a **Wednesday** evening.
- Discuss meanings of any new vocabulary they come across.
- Support with any English homework and spellings that they are working on in class.

## Learning Celebration

Following the success of last year's digestive system workshop, we would love to invite you in to celebrate our Space topic by creating solar systems made entirely out of junk-modelling. This will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, from 2pm in the hall.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Miss Brunton and Mr Thomas



**asteroid**

A rock that orbits the Sun.

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**astronaut**

A person who is trained to travel into space.

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**astronomer**

A person who makes observations about and studies the stars, planets and space.

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**axis**

The imaginary, straight line on which a planet rotates.

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**comet**

A small, frozen mass of dust and gas orbiting the Sun.

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**crater**

A huge hole formed by the impact of a meteorite or other space objects.

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**free fall**

Any object that moves under the force of gravity only.

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**gravity**

The force by which an object with a large mass, such as a planet, pulls objects toward its centre. The force of gravity keeps all of the planets in the Solar System in orbit around the Sun.

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**jovian planet**

Planets made primarily of gas. Also known as gas and/or ice giants. Jovian planets in our Solar System include Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

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**lunar**

Relating to the Moon, for example, lunar landscape or lunar landing.

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**meteoroid**

A rock that orbits the Sun. Smaller than asteroids.



**moon**

Natural satellites which orbit a planet. The Earth has one moon whereas other planets have numerous.

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**NASA**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA is America's space agency responsible for space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research.

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**observatory**

A place where observations about space are made.

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**orbit**

A curved, invisible path that a planet takes around a star such as the Sun.

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**orrery**

A model of the Solar System that shows the position and movement of the planets.

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**planet**

A spherical mass of solids and gases which spin and orbit the Sun. There are eight planets in our Solar System.

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**planetarium**

A purpose-built, domed building or tent in which images of stars, planets and constellations are projected for educational purposes or entertainment.

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**rocket**

A jet engine that launches a spacecraft into space.

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**rover**

A space exploration vehicle designed to move across the surface of a planet, moon or asteroid.

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**satellite**

A man-made machine that orbits a body in space and sends signals to and from Earth.



**Sir Isaac Newton**

An English scientist, mathematician and astronomer whose discoveries changed the way we think about the Universe. He is best-known for defining the three laws of motion and universal gravitation.

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**solar system**

A system of planets and other objects that orbit a sun.

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**star**

A huge, bright ball of burning gas that is held together by gravity. The Sun is the closest star to Earth.

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**telescope**

A device designed to magnify objects that are in the distance.

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**terrestrial planet**

Planets made primarily of rock and metal. Terrestrial planets in our Solar System include Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

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**universe**

All of space and everything in it including stars, planets and galaxies.

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**zero gravity**

The feeling of weightlessness.







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Journey through space – the final frontier! Let's take a trip to the stars, planets and suns and discover the amazing wonders of the night sky.

During this half term, we'll read information texts to find out about the Solar System and the Sun, using mnemonics to help us remember the facts. We'll make a Solar System and investigate the cycle of day into night. We'll learn about Galileo, the 'father' of modern astronomy and his famous astronomical discoveries. Taking on the roles of the planets, we'll use movement to demonstrate the motions of the planets and moons. We'll investigate lunar myths and write astronaut poetry. Then we'll make a space shuttle or satellite, testing the materials for durability, and we'll program toys to explore a lunar landscape.

At the end of the project, we'll look at alien-themed comics, invent our own aliens and consider the big question: why is there life on Earth? Finally, we'll invite you to our 'Visitors' centre' and share our knowledge with you.

ILP focus	Science
English	Mnemonics, myths and legends, free verse poetry, newspaper reports, science-fiction, graphic narrative
Science	Earth and space, forces
Art & design	Printing, design
Computing	Programming, stop-motion animation
D&T	Selecting materials, design research, structures, evaluation
Geography	Locating physical feature
History	Significant individuals – Galileo Galilei and Sir Isaac Newton
Mathematics	Problem solving using measures
Music	Space-inspired music and lyrics
PE	Dance





## What will you choose to do?

- Keep a Moon diary over the course of a lunar month. Draw the shape of the Moon each night, finding out and recording the correct term for each lunar phase.
- Use non-fiction books, astronomy magazines and the web to find and record amazing facts about space. Create a space scrapbook using your facts and downloaded images.
- Visit your local library and search for space-themed books. These could be non-fiction, novels or poetry books. Write a review of your favourite to display in the library or school.
- Search the night sky and try to identify the Moon, stars or even some of the other planets in the Solar System such as Venus or Mars. Use binoculars or a telescope if possible. You might also be able to use an app which will help you to locate the position of the stars.
- Imagine... an alien space ship has crash landed in your back garden. Write a story about what happens next. You may want to borrow ideas from space stories or films you know well. Remember to use powerful vocabulary to bring your story (and your alien) to life!
- So far, 24 astronauts have visited the Moon. Find out their names, download pictures and record interesting facts about them.
- Write a letter of application to the UK Space Agency to become an astronaut. What personal qualities or skills would you need to carry out this role?
- Write a film review of a space-themed film that you have watched with your family. Some great films to choose might be *Wall-E* (U), *ET* (U), *Star Wars* (PG) or *Apollo 13* (PG). How many 'stars' would you award your film?
- Design and create an astronaut space helmet or alien headwear using junk materials. Bring it to school and take part in a space-inspired fashion parade!
- Teach your family the order of the planets in the Solar System using your mnemonic, then test them! Have they remembered correctly?
- Using non-fiction books and online research, find out the names of some of the best-known star constellations. On a clear night, try to identify them. Draw diagrams of those you have spotted. Do you think the names they have been given suit them?
- Make a 3-D model of the Solar System which displays all the planets in order.