



Rye Community Primary School

"A Gateway to learning"



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to a New Year and a new term of learning. We hope you have enjoyed the Christmas holidays and are looking forward to this term's exciting new learning.

Term 3 Learning in Jellyfish and Marlin

This term, our Topic is "Stargazers".

We will be exploring Earth and Space in Science, Significant Individuals in History and Physical Features in Geography.

PE

PE will be on Mondays and some Thursdays for both classes.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit, clearly labelled.

Mathematics

This term in Maths we will be continuing our understanding of shape which will lead beautifully into understanding perimeter and area. We will be improving our division skills before entering into the world of fractions.

How you can help your child

- Look for opportunities to talk about maths in the everyday environment.
- Support with learning Number Muncher facts.
- Support with any maths homework.

English

This term in English we will be improving our Non-Fiction skills by writing information texts and newspaper articles. We will also be looking at creating some of our own sci-fi tales.

How you can help your child

- Make sure your child reads daily and discuss the stories in terms of your child's personal reading targets. Don't forget to record reading sessions in the new 'Greedy Reader' booklets.
- With the topic in mind, please find out and discuss as much information about Space as possible.
- Discuss meanings of any new vocabulary they come across.
- Practise the spellings that are sent home weekly.

Homework

Homework, Number Munchers and spellings will continue to be given out on Fridays.

Termly Project

Children can choose one of the ideas from the next page to complete at home and bring to school to share with the class by the end of the term.

Thank you for your continuing support.
Mrs Lovell and Mr MacNicol



Stargazers



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

Help your child prepare for their project

The possibilities are endless when you’re thinking about the vastness of space. Why not work together to make a papier mâché model of your favourite planet? You could also watch a science-fiction film or read a book to see how space is presented. Alternatively, visit the local library together to find fascinating non-fiction books about space.



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.