

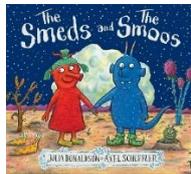
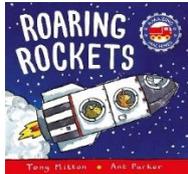
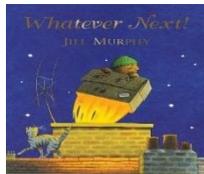
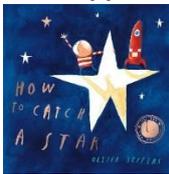
## EYFS Newsletter Spring 2



*Theme: To the moon and beyond!*

Get ready for blast-off! This term in EYFS, we are going on a big adventure to space. We will be learning all about the stars and the moon, and even "training" to be astronauts. We are going to build our own rockets out of boxes, learn the names of the planets, and read stories about friendly aliens. It is a very exciting time as we wonder what it would be like to fly high into the sky! At the end of the term, we will come back down to Earth to look for signs of Spring. We will be going on egg hunts, looking at baby chicks, and seeing how plants grow in our garden.

### Book opportunities:



*These are some of the books we will be exploring, listening to and enjoying during this topic.*

### Reading and Writing:

#### Nursery

This term, we are busy preparing our Nursery children for their phonics journey! We will be learning the special names for the pictures on our sound cards and playing "Fred Games" to practice hearing and blending sounds in words.

We will also be singing plenty of nursery rhymes and diving deep into our weekly space stories to build a love of reading. In our mark-making areas, we are encouraging the children to talk about the "meanings" behind the marks and drawings they create as they develop their early writing skills.

#### Reception

In Reception, we have a big focus on handwriting as the children become more confident, independent writers. We will be practicing reading and writing CVC words (like 'cat' or 'sun') and move on to writing full sentences. We are learning that every sentence needs a capital letter at the start and a full stop at the end! Many children will also be starting to learn their 'special friends' (two letters that make one sound) in their Read Write Inc. lessons, which will help them tackle new, challenging words.

### Maths:

#### Nursery

In our Maths learning, we are following the White Rose scheme to help the children become "mini mathematicians!" We are working hard to make sure we are experts at counting to 5 and recognizing our basic shapes.

We are also practicing "subitising"—this is when children can look at a small group of objects (like dots on a dice) and know how many are there without having to count them!

We will be exploring how to solve puzzles, making patterns, and playing lots of games to show what we know.

#### Reception

This term, we are becoming experts with numbers all the way to 10! We will be "building" 9 and 10 and looking at their composition (for example, knowing that 6 is "5 and a bit"). We are also learning to subitise (recognise amounts without counting) up to 6 and will be introduced to a 'rekenrek' to help us see how numbers are made. In our shape work, we will be naming 3D shapes and spotting them in our environment, as well as finding 2D shapes hiding on their surfaces! Finally, we will be challenging ourselves to find, copy, and create even more complex patterns.

**Physical development:**

Across EYFS, we are focusing on moving with confidence and building our strength. Our younger children will be exploring safe ways to climb, crawl, and kick large balls, while our older children challenge their balance by hopping, galloping, and aiming for targets with beanbags and bats. We are also busy working on our "finger muscles" to help with our writing. This ranges from squashing and poking playdough and using chunky paintbrushes to mastering a correct pencil grip, using small tools like tweezers, and learning to form our letters with precision.

**Communication and language:**

Language is at the heart of everything we do! In EYFS, we are supporting our children to become confident listeners and talkers. Our younger children are learning to "tune in" to their names and follow simple instructions, while our older children are becoming "experts" by using factual books to learn new vocabulary. We are encouraging everyone to use their words to solve problems—like figuring out how to balance a tall tower—and to share their own stories and "pretend talk" during role-play. Whether it is combining two words to describe a rocket or recounting a past event with a clear beginning, middle, and end, we are building the communication skills they need to share their ideas with the world.

**Expressive Arts and Design:**

We have a very creative term ahead! In **EYFS**, we will be exploring different ways to express our ideas, from "splatter painting" messy galaxies to building 3D rockets from recycled boxes. Our younger children will focus on joining materials and exploring textures like playdough, while our older children will refine their designs to make them sturdy and functional. We will also be using our imaginations in our space role-play areas—turning cardboard boxes into spaceships and colanders into helmets—before finishing the term with colourful Spring crafts and nest-building!

**Understanding the world:**

This term in **EYFS**, we are becoming scientists and explorers! We will be using torches for "Shadow Play" to see how light moves and "Gravity Testing" to find out why things fall to the ground. We will also be learning to sort the planets by size and colour, and we might even get to try some real "Space Food" to see what astronauts eat! We will be reading the story of "The Great Race" to learn about different animals, and as we move into Spring, we will be re-telling the Easter story and heading outside for an exciting Easter Egg Hunt in our garden.

**Suggested home learning activities:**

- Reading phonics book 3 times a week (Please sign diary)- Reception
- Weekly homework in homework books- Reception
- RWI videos on class dojo- Reception
- Reading/ listening to book chosen from the library
- I- spy games
- Read lots of rhyming books and sing rhyming songs. Say two words and ask, "Do these words rhyme?" (e.g., *cat/hat, fun/run*).
- Encourage them to create pretend lists (e.g., a shopping list or a list of toys) to promote early writing attempts.
- Practise reading and writing simple three-letter (CVC) words like *cat, dog, sun, man* on cards or whiteboards. – Reception
- After reading a book, ask your child to be the teacher and re-tell the story to you, focusing on the main characters and events.
- Continue to practise writing their full name using the correct letter formation (starting and finishing letters correctly). – Reception
- Look for small collections of things (e.g., 1, 2, or 3 buttons, apples, or toys) and ask "How many are there?" without counting (subitising).

- Use small toys or snacks to practise "taking 1 away" or "giving 1 more" to introduce simple addition/subtraction.
- Use numbers you see around the house (e.g., on the TV, microwave, or house number) and practise putting them in order up to 8. – Reception
- Engage in activities that strengthen hands: kneading playdough, threading beads, using clothes pegs, cutting with scissors, and drawing with small crayons.