Reception Thematic Map, Autumn 2, 2026

Shining Lights



Our Theme Based Curriculum

Our themes run for half a term and we try to teach as many subjects as we can through this theme. We repeat learning frequently to ensure better retention of knowledge.

Subject	How We Teach It	This term children will learn how to:
Memorable Experiences	Our aim is to create rich and memorable learning experiences for your children. We do this through our learning environment, the activities we set in the continuous and enhanced provision and through discrete teaching.	● Skills Builder Challenge Day - 20th November ● No Pens Day - 27th November ● Christmas activities, including Christmas dinner, jumper day, performing in the Christmas show, having a class party, and various craft activities. ● Cooking - making gingerbread biscuits. ● Use the Now Press Play headphones (an immersive audio drama experience) to learn about: -Christmas -Goldilocks and the Three Bears -The Gingerbread Man
PRIMES: **- Communication and Language** **- Personal, Social and Emotional Development** **- Physical Development**	We teach the PRIMES throughout our curriculum, setting tasks which give children the opportunities they need to improve these skills.	Communication and Language: ● Children will explore their own world, using key vocabulary to describe. ● Key vocabulary will include: Space, astronauts, rockets, light, festivals, celebrations. PSED: ● Learning about handwashing and hygiene. ● Following the classroom rules and routines. ● Learning about feelings and emotions and how to consider their peer's feelings. Physical Development: ● Locomotion *running, jumping, hopping, skipping and walking.* ● Balance *develop static and dynamic balance through various activities.* ● Object control *throwing, catching, kicking & striking.*

		● Coordination & Agility *developing hand-eye and foot-eye coordination through games & activities. Engaging in exercises that promote agility such as obstacle courses.*
Expressive Arts and Design	We set tasks which enhance children's imaginations, creativity and their ability to use media and materials. We do this in a range of ways: singing songs, making music, dancing, through roleplay and playing with colours, textures and design.	● Music Express unit: 'Light a Candle' Skills include: singing, listening, moving and responding to music. ● Learning to sing songs for our Christmas show. ● Children will also be taught a range of rhymes and songs. ● Performing in our Christmas show - understanding cues, using a performance voice and using actions to tell a story. ● Roleplay - retelling *Goldilocks and the Three Bears.* ● Using clay to make diva lamps for Diwali. ● Rangoli patterns. ● Art activities linked to fireworks. ● Art activities linked to the menorah. ● Junk model rockets. ● Snowflake art.
Understanding the World	We guide children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.	● Learning about religious festivals and non-religious celebrations of light, including Diwali, Bonfire Night, Hanukkah and Christmas. ● Observing seasonal changes (autumn to winter). ● Observing changing states of matter (water to ice). ● Lives of significant individuals: Mae Jemison (the first African-American woman to travel into Space). ● RE: Which people are special and why? ● Digital literacy: explaining the over-use of screen time. ● Staying safe and understanding emotions when using technology.
Writing	We teach writing in discrete carpet sessions, teaching children the skills needed to start to mark-make and write. Where possible, we try to link writing to our theme. Opportunities for mark making and writing are included throughout our continuous and enhanced provision.	Our weekly writing themes are: 1. Story: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* Outcomes: Children will write words with Set 1 phonics sounds. 2. Story: *Astro Girl* by Ken Wilson-Max Outcomes: Children will write words with Set 1 phonics sounds. 3. Story: *Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed Outcomes: Children will write words with Set 1 phonics sounds. 4. Story: *Penguinaut!* By Marcie Colleen Outcomes: Children will write words with Set 1 phonics sounds. 5. Story: *Q Pootle 5* by Nick Butterworth

		Outcomes: Children will write words with Set 1 phonics sounds.
		6. Story: *Luna Loves Christmas* by Joseph Coelho Outcomes: Children will write words with Set 1 phonics sounds.
Key Texts	Children will read high quality texts and these texts will be linked to their learning.	Key texts will include the following: ● *Goldilocks and Just the One Bear* by Leigh Hodgkinson ● *Diwali* by Lisa J Amstutz ● *Let's Celebrate: Special Days Around the World* by Kate DePalma ● *Winnie in Space* by Valerie Thomas ● *A Way to the Stars* by David Almond ● *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers ● *My Very First Space Book* by Emily Bone ● *Intergalactic Ed and the Space Pirates* by Ella Denton ● *Look Up!* by Nathan Byron ● *Man on the Moon (A Day in the Life of Bob)* by Simon Bartram ● *Little People, Big Dreams: Neil Armstrong* by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara ● *Luna and the Sky Dragon* by Bethan Woollvin ● *Peppa Pig: Stars* ● *Zoo in the Sky* by Jaqueline Mitton ● *Professor Astro Cat's Stargazing* by Dr Dominic Walliman ● *Kipper's Christmas Eve* by Mick Inkpen ● *The Nativity Pop-Up Book* by Laura Garnerburt ● *The Christmas Star* by Hilary Robinson ● *The Jolly Christmas Postman* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg ● *If I had a Polar Bear* by Gabby Dawnay ● *Tiger in the Snow!* by Nick Butterworth ● *You Can't Let an Elephant Pull Santa's Sleigh* by Patricia Cleveland-Peck ● *Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson We will read lots more fiction, non-fiction and poetry besides these texts! We read a mixture of books that are linked directly to their learning, as well as stories that are read for pleasure.
Maths	Children will study these topics:	● It's me, 1, 2, 3. ● Circles and triangles. ● 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. ● Shapes with 4 sides. Linked story books: ● *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* ● *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* ● *Triangle* by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen ● *Circle, Triangle, Elephant!* A Book of Shapes and Surprises by Kenji Oikawa and Mayuko Takeuchi ● *Witches Four* by Marc Brown ● *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle ● *Square* by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen ● *Bear in a Square* by Stella Blackstone ● *Bears Love Squares* by Caryl Hart

Cultural Enrichment& Vocational Experience	We include at least one culturally enriching trip each term and organise visitors to the school, to talk about their professions or teach children about the world.	This half term, we will be doing the following: ● A visitor from Domestos will come in on 4th November to deliver a workshop about germs and handwashing. ● Trip to the Science Museum on 19th November to visit the Space Gallery.

Vocabulary:	
Vocabulary linked to our theme:	**Definitions:**
● Space	● Space is the massive, cold area beyond our planet Earth where there is no air to breathe. It contains the stars, planets and moons.
● Astronaut	● An astronaut is a special space scientist who wears a big, white spacesuit and flies in a rocket ship to study the stars and planets.
● Rocket	● A rocket is a super-fast spaceship that zooms up into the sky to push astronauts all the way into outer space!
● Light	● Light is a bright energy that shines on things so our eyes can see them. Light comes from the warm sun, glowing lightbulbs, and shiny torches.
● Celebration	● A celebration is a giant, happy party where lots of people come together to celebrate something special, play fun music, eat yummy treats, and dress up in bright clothes.
● Festival	● A religious festival is a very special time when people of the same faith come together to thank God, say prayers, and remember important holy stories, while sharing festive food and gifts with their families.

Weekly Home Learning:	
● Children are given weekly reading books. Please ensure you read with your child every day. Reading journals should be completed by an adult and they will be checked once weekly on a Friday. ● Daily phonics sound and letter formation sheets will be given to children. ● Children are expected to complete a task on Doodle Maths every day. Children should complete enough activities to reach the green zone in Doodle Maths every week: https://doodlelearning.com/	
Reading recommendations: We advise our students to borrow and read these books at home:	This is a fantastic list of books for reception children to read: https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/reception/  If you would like any specific recommendations, please come and speak to me - I love discussing books!