

## Foundation Stage Curriculum Newsletter

### Term 4

***In Foundation our topics are determined by the interests of the children. This way they are involved in making decisions about what they would like to learn about. This term we have two themes - Space and Under the Sea.***

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

*This term we will focus on making choices, sharing thoughts and ideas and working cooperatively in a group. We will also think about this term's value of appreciation.*

*In our topic about Space, the children will think about what they would take to the moon and what is special to them. We will talk about safety around water when we do our Under the Sea topic.*

#### **Physical Development**

*The children will develop fine motor skills by cutting and sticking to make rockets from shapes and other materials. They will practise threading asteroids (cheerios) on string. Children can use their fingers in the glittery sand over the light box to mark make. We will also have playdough and moon sand activities in the classroom. This is in addition to activities available to all of the children that are set up in Foundation daily, to improve fine motor skills.*

*In PE the children will be exploring different ways of moving to represent different space items e.g. crouching down and leaping up as a rocket lifting off into space; large, slow steps like an astronaut walking on the Moon; running around like a flying saucer whizzing around in space or being an alien with bouncy or wobbly steps. We will continue to use the apparatus in the hall so that the children can climb, jump and balance.*

#### **Communication and Language**

*The children will learn the names of the planets through songs. We will discuss planets' surfaces and what they might be like, as well as talking about aliens. The children will be listening to a variety of stories and will be encouraged to talk through their own story ideas based on space.*

*The children will start to verbally sequence instructions and also listen to and follow them. They will have the opportunity to re-tell stories that they have heard.*

#### **Literacy**

*In addition to their regular phonics lessons, the children will learn about the difference between fact and fiction through looking at a variety of books about the topics. They will have the opportunity to write labels and captions. A range of mark making/writing activities will be available to the children, including light box mark making.*

*The children will learn about instructions and have a go at writing their own instructions for how to make a rocket. We will use story maps to re-tell stories and compose our own.*

*We continually encourage the use of role play in every topic to develop ideas for writing. We hope that that the children will have a go at writing their own sentences and stories.*

*In our Under the Sea topic, the children will start to listen to some poems and think about rhyme.*

**Mathematics**

We practise our counting daily in Foundation and will also begin to count backwards from 20. In addition to this, the children will compare the weight of things, order items by weight and have a go at using balance scales.

They will start to learn about subtraction and recording number sentences, learning to form their numerals correctly.

We will use the Under the Sea topic to investigate capacity and whether things float or sink. We will also create treasure maps and start to use the language of direction. We will also use shells and pebbles to help with counting and finding one more or one less.

**Understanding the World**

The children will be learning facts about each of our topics. They will find out about the planets and space, as well as exploring sea life.

Games and programs will be used both in ICT lessons and in class to support learning in the different topics. The children will also create space and underwater pictures using the computer.

We will also learn about different celebrations and special days, such as Shrove Tuesday, World Book Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

**Expressive Arts and Design**

This term we will paint aliens, mould moon sand, make an alien planet surface in papier mache, make rockets from junk, make an alien landscape, make alien puppets and create space sounds with musical instruments.

The children will have a go at creating underwater scenes and colourful fish and sea creatures, using a range of media.

**We encourage the children to go outside all year round. There will be a range of outdoor activities daily, to support the children's learning.**