

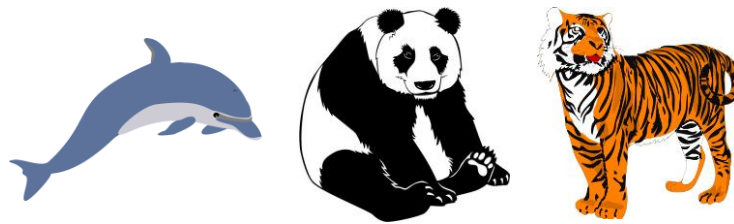


Spring 2018

First Half Term



Year 2 - Dolphins, Pandas and Tigers



We hope you had a great holiday.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their second half term in Year 2 and fully engaged with all of the learning that has taken place. The topic of 'Bright Lights, Big City' really engaged them as they learned about the city they live in and became immersed in The Great Fire of London. Having the opportunity to research London, both in the present and the past, really **Engaged** the children with the topic. After talking about their experiences of London, the children **Developed** their understanding of different buildings including how different materials are suitable for different purposes both for buildings and within buildings. During the **Innovate** stage of the topic they created design criteria for their own Tudor style houses. They used their making skills to co-operate in a group to build their houses and were able to explain how and why the fire spread through London. It was an excellent way to reinforce Fire Safety. They were really interested in watching really enjoyed watching their Tudor houses burn as the Fire Brigade supervised.

For the final stage of the topic, **Express**; the children enjoyed sharing their learning based on London with each other, children in other year groups and their family and friends.



The pictures show just some of the learning in Year 2 last half term.

How do the children learn in Year 2?

In Key Stage 1, (Years 1 and 2) the curriculum is planned using Cornerstones.

The Cornerstones philosophy is based on the **Four Cornerstones of Learning**, which brings the curriculum to life. Each stage of learning has its own unique characteristics, which help children learn and remain motivated throughout each **Imaginative Learning Project** (ILP).



This simple sounding philosophy is very powerful and condenses the learning process down to its fundamental parts.

As teachers across the globe know, you need to engage the people in front of you before you can develop their skills or knowledge. Then, for them to retain this new knowledge, they have to be able to use and apply it in an innovative way that is meaningful to them (at whatever level of innovation that is). Finally, they need to reflect on the learning and express their knowledge and understanding meaningfully, so as to cement that knowledge and contextualise it.

This philosophy focuses on pedagogy; it develops teachers' skills in planning child negotiated, enquiry led learning and provides opportunities for teachers to develop their range of pedagogic skills.

Above all, our philosophy is based around fun and challenge as we believe these are the building blocks of good learning.

Engage

At the 'Engage' stage, children:

- gain memorable first-hand experiences, such as going on a visit or inviting a special visitor into school
- enjoy 'WOW' experiences
- get an exciting introduction to a topic or theme
- begin researching and setting enquiry questions
- get lots of opportunities to make observations
- develop spoken language skills
- take part in sensory activities
- have lots of fun to fully 'engage' with their new topic.

Develop

At the 'Develop' stage, children:

- improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic
- develop and practice their new skills
- compose, make, do, build, investigate, explore, write for different purposes and read across the curriculum
- research their own questions and those set by others
- follow new pathways of enquiry based on their interests
- complete learning at home activities that support their learning.

Innovate

At the 'Innovate' stage, children:

- apply skills, knowledge and understanding in real-life contexts
- solve real or imagined problems using everything they've learnt
- get inspired by imaginative and creative opportunities
- revisit anything not fully grasped at the 'Develop' stage.

Express

At the 'Express' stage, children:

- become the performers, experts and informers
- share their achievements with parents, classmates and the community
- evaluate finished products and processes
- link what they have learnt to where they started
- celebrate their achievements!

The Year 2 topic for this half term is

'Moon Zoom'



Each topic teaches the children basic skills and knowledge through a project which is relevant to them. This project has a science, design technology and history focus.

At the heart of this project children will learn about how, through history, things have been and are still being discovered about Space. The children will learn about significant historical individuals who have had an impact on our lives today. In Design Technology we will design and make Mars Rovers using mechanisms.

The children will research space using books and pre-selected internet sites. They will sequence the major historical events. They will investigate the first machine, the Sputnik, and Yuri Gagarin, the first person in Space and Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon and discuss the Space Race. The children will also reflect on historic events which have happened in their lifetime, such as Tim Peake going to the International Space Station in 2015.

As part of the **Engage** Stage, we will be making a model Voyager and paper-mache planets to enable us to have our own solar system in our Space role play area. We will also be learning about sightings of inhabitants from other planets! You are invited to come and learn about Space with your child during our Space Read Sessions on **Tuesday 9th January** or **Wednesday 10th January**. Any family member or friend is welcome to come to share space books. Please see further details and times at the end of the newsletter.



During the **Develop** Stage the children will sequence historical events and think about what humans would need for basic survival, related to space travel. The children will experience an interactive learning session when the **Planetarium** visits on **29th January**.

In the **Innovate** Stage, the children will design their own Space Vehicle according to success criteria that they will devise as a class. We will be thinking about the different ways wheels can be made to turn. They will investigate how to join axels to wheels using dowelling and washers. During the **Innovate** Stage you are invited to join the children in school to help them create their space vehicle on **Monday 5th February**. Any family member or friend is welcome to come to help create Space Vehicles. Please see the dates and times at the end of the newsletter. They will evaluate it against their own success criteria.

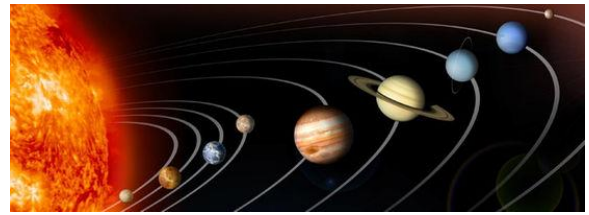
In the **Express** Stage you are invited to join the children in school to share their learning for this term. Any family member or friend is welcome to come and share learning with your child. Please see the dates and times at the end of the newsletter.

The following is a brief outline of the learning during the Engage Stage.

Weeks 1 & 2 Engage Science and Art Focus

Introducing the topic 'Moon Zoom' and recording the children's current knowledge and understanding about space. We will be discussing what the children would like to find out about space and how we can find the answers to these questions.

As a Year Group the children will learn the technique of paper-mache, to create our own 3D structures. The children will reference the pre-selected internet



sites and books to add colour and detail to the planets so they are an accurate representation of the solar system.

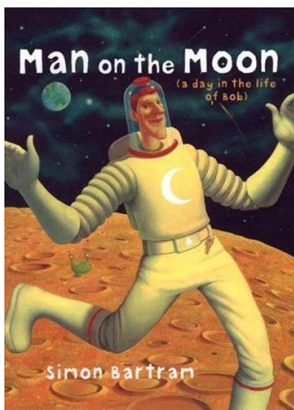
The children will begin to collect information about space by carrying out research both with books and pre-selected websites, considering carefully how to re-write information in their own words. The children will create a front cover for their Moon Zoom learning and add facts about Space to their learning folder over the half term.



Using both audio visual representations in the form of video clips and

physical movement the children will explore how the planets orbit the sun, including how their positioning affects things such as the length of time a planet takes to orbit the sun. Exploring the sky using ipad apps such as Skyguide.

English: The children will read non-fiction books about space and will then think about what they have read, change it into their own words to create an exciting piece of writing about space. We will explore the book 'Man on the Moon' by Simon Bartram. Firstly the children will retell the story orally, and then we will create a story map, as a class, of the main events. They will constructed character descriptions of Bob, the moon and the aliens. This will then lead to the children creating a setting description of the moon. Daily phonic sessions will help to read information texts and information online to support their learning, expanding their vocabulary and checking the meaning of words using a dictionary.



Maths: Mental Maths – Reinforcing and reviewing accurate counting forwards and backwards to at least 100 in different steps such as 2, 5 and 10. Using this knowledge to count in steps of their own choice such as 3 or 4. Recognising the

number one more or less than a given number to at least 100 and extending this knowledge to within 1000.

Using knowledge of place value to explore numbers and find different ways of making each number using partitioning and number bonds. Children will think about the size of numbers and use the greater than > and less than < symbols to compare and order numbers. Solving problems that allow them to reason and identify how and why numbers are related. Exploring sequences of numbers and again describing how the numbers are related and why certain numbers do not fit into the sequence.

Computing: Discussing E-Safety including that you would only use the computer with a grown up.



Physical Education: This term, P.E. will have a focus on social skills e.g. being team player. We will also be learning to jump forwards and backwards and side to side, with rhythm. Jumping from two feet to two feet with a quarter turn in in one direction.

To develop their gym skills the children will explore different ways of travelling on their feet.

Throughout the term the children will continue to have the opportunity every third week to have football coaching. Sport Premium funding will enable the children to continue cycling coaching during the term.

Religious Education: Discussing our knowledge of Christian festivals and investigating the importance of Epiphany for Christians. Revisiting special writings such as the bible and their importance to the Christian community.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE):



Discussing the term "Setting a Goal" and relating it to setting challenges, breaking these goals into small achievable steps. Thinking about how to make our learning environment a happy, purposeful place, including how to keep safe and what to do if there was a fire.

Music: Listening to a range of high-quality recorded music and revising the terms: dynamics, pitch, tempo and timbre. We will be appraising Space themed music such as the Planets Suite by Holst. We will listen to the music and think about how it makes us feel.

Introducing the term structure in relation to composition and compose simple music in groups using instruments. Throughout the term exploring how to play larger instruments such as drums or the keyboard.

Learning at Home



- Regular reading at home is vital to sustain progress and liaising with staff through the Home/ School contact book is invaluable to your child. Children are encouraged to read each night and change the reading book each morning.
- Share the school library book that your child chooses each week. Children will have the opportunity to change their library book once a week. Please make sure your child returns their book each week so they can choose a new one.

Dolphins - Fridays

Pandas - Tuesday

Tigers - Thursday

- Sharing the weekly 'Learning at Home' with your child will help him/her to develop key skills. The folder will come home on a Wednesday and should be returned on the following Monday.
- Share the online Phonic Bug books with your child. <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login>
- Enjoy the weekly Education City activities online with your child - this will be directly linked to the learning they are doing at school that week. <https://www.educationcity.com/>

Other ideas you might like to try.....

- Visit your local library and search for Space-themed books. Read and talk with an adult about the books you find.
- With an adult, search the web for fascinating Space facts and make your own Space Fact Book.
- Ask an adult to help you find the names of all the people who have walked on the Moon. There are 12 of them so far!



- Use an app to find constellations, planets and stars in the night sky. Which constellation is the easiest to recognise? Which star is the brightest?
- With an adult, explore the Hubble Telescope website. Check out those amazing gallery images!
- Imagine you're an astronaut completing different Space

missions and make a book about your learning.

- Make a telescope from junk cardboard materials and sticky tape. Just before bed time use your telescope to look up at the stars. Can you see any wonderful star patterns in the sky? Draw the patterns of stars that you have spotted. Take the pattern into school to share with your class.
- Can you make up your own Space song or rhyme? Teach the song to your class and perform it as a Space choir.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9 th January	8.45am – 9.05am	Space Read
Tuesday 9 th January	3.20pm – 3.40pm	Space Read
Wednesday 10 th January	8.45am – 09.05am	Space Read
Wednesday 10 th January	3.20pm – 3.40pm	Space Read

Any family member or friend is invited to come into the classroom to look at Space books with your child and find out new facts for them to add to his or her learning. We are running the sessions on two different days at the beginning and end of the day. Please come only once to read with your child, please come to which ever session is most suitable for you. There is no need to sign up, just come along!

Monday 29th January Mobile Planetarium will visit
A visual story will be sent home nearer the time for you to share with your child.

Monday 5 th February	09.00 – 11.30	Space Vehicles
Monday 5 th February	1.30pm – 3.00pm	Space Vehicles

Volunteers will be welcomed to either the morning or the afternoon sessions. We will be using a range of resources to build the space vehicles in the morning and using the afternoon session to add decoration and finishing touches such as paint to the vehicles.

Tuesday 6 th February	8.45am – 9.05am	Moon Zoom sharing session
Tuesday 6 th February	3.20pm – 3.40pm	Moon Zoom sharing session
Wednesday 7 th February	8.45am – 9.05am	Moon Zoom sharing session
Wednesday 7 th February	3.20pm – 3.40pm	Moon Zoom sharing session

Any family member or friend can come to share learning with your child.
We are running the sessions on two different days at the beginning and end of the day.
Please come only once to share the learning with your child, please come to which ever session is most suitable for you. There is no need to sign up, just come along!

Thursday 1 st February	Boards will be available to book an appointment	
Thursday 8 th February	3.30pm – 8.00pm	Open Evening.



Year Two Team