

**Content Summary:** Space travel, moon landings, rocket launches, planets, astronauts, aliens

**Vocabulary:** Space, solar system, planets, sun, earth, moon, launch, landing, countdown, astronaut, alien, rocket, telescope, satellite, constellation, astronomer, meteor, galaxy

### Communication and Language

Investigating the site where a spaceship has crash-landed in the garden. Through group discussion we will try to answer questions such as, "Why did the alien come to earth?" "What does the alien look like?" "What do aliens eat?"

We will share the story "Q Pootle 5" and then create our own aliens. The children will use their descriptive language (focus on adjectives) to help create a picture of their alien. Work together to create a spaceship and role-play being astronauts using the new vocabulary and knowledge we have gained during the topic.

### Personal Social and Emotional Development

Explore themes of friendship and acceptance when looking at the book "Beegu". Talk about what it is like to be new and how we can make people feel welcome. Relate our discussion to the experiences of the children who have recently moved to the Quiet Room.

Discuss the meaning of the word "rules" and why we have them. Talk about our ability to make good choices about our actions. Work together to suggest rules we think might be important at nursery and draw pictures to illustrate them. Create a "Golden Rules" display in the Quiet Room.

### Physical Development

Talk about the effects of gravity on us and the objects around us. Watch a short clip to illustrate the way movement is affected in space both during flight and when walking on the moon. Try to move like an astronaut during our role-play game. Practise balancing on one leg and hopping. Experiment with other ways of moving around space.

Work on letter formation, with a focus on the initial letter in our own name. Use tracing paper to increase pencil control.

Talk about hand hygiene in the context of preparing our snack each day and going to the toilet.

### Mathematics

We will continue to practise counting forwards and backwards first to 10 then 20. We will use these skills to roleplay rocket launches and while singing songs about space ("5 little men in a flying saucer", "Zoom, zoom, zoom"). Our knowledge will also help us to find 1 more or 1 less than a given number and we will relate this to adding and subtracting. Estimating and then counting the number of objects in a group (stars, planets, rockets, astronauts) and selecting the appropriate digit to represent the total.

The children will be given lots of opportunities to practise number recognition and formation in real-life contexts and we will begin to solve simple problems. Sequencing events and using the language related to time (morning, evening, yesterday, tomorrow etc.).

January 2021

## One Small Step For Man...



### Understanding the World

Explore the Solar System and planets- we will learn the names of planets and try to put them in order. Using adult-guided research we will try to answer our own questions e.g. "Which planet is nearest the sun and which is the furthest away?"

Discuss the features of a planet - distance from the sun it is, size, temperature, appearance and whether it has moons or rings or both. What does the Earth look like? Exploring spheres. We will be learning about the way the earth moves and the effects of it rotating.

Watch clips to show life in space and how zero gravity changes the daily routine of an astronaut.

### Literacy

We will be using our emerging knowledge of phonics to read the names of fictional aliens. Focus on the set 1 sounds and CVC words. Look at rhyming words and create a rhyming string of nonsense words in "alien language" (e.g. zog, kog, yog, rog...).

Share fiction and non-fiction books about space and answer simple recall questions about the things we read. Explore the differences between fiction and non-fiction books and start to learn some of the related vocabulary (title, contents, caption, blurb etc.)

Continue with name recognition and if ready name writing practise. Use our knowledge of letter sounds to identify our friends' names in addition to our own.

**Key Texts:** Field Trip to the Moon, Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover, Q Pootle 5, The Darkest Dark A Cat's Guide to the Night Sky, Beegu, Look Inside: Space, The Way Back Home, Whatever Next!, Aliens Love Underpants, Here Come the Aliens!

### Expressive Arts and Design

Making and decorating our own flying saucers, painting pictures of aliens. Making 3D paper mâché planets considering what we have learnt about the planets of the solar system.

Create textured moon pictures using "puffy paint" and discuss the surface of the moon.

Use triangles to create pictures of stars, count the corners in a triangle and then in the stars we have created, discuss doubling - what if we make a star using two squares?

Singing songs about space and create movement to music thinking about the way astronauts move in outer space.

Role playing a space shuttle launch and mission. We will design and make our own rocket for roleplay as a collaborative project. The children will create props for their roleplay using recycled materials (telescopes, moon boots, food, flags for when landing, lasers, oxygen tanks, helmets etc.)

**Key Dates:** New Year's Day (1<sup>st</sup>), National Bird Day (5<sup>th</sup>), Universal Letter Writing Week (?) Tu B'Shevat (21<sup>st</sup>), Burns Night (25<sup>th</sup>), National Puzzle Day (29<sup>th</sup>)

**Trips, Experiences and Visitors:** Building a rocket or spaceship for use in our roleplay