



THE MOON LANDING

Autumn Term 2 - 2022

Squirrel Class

THE MOON LANDING

This half term we will be investigating the moon landing. We will start our topic when the Aliens come crash landing down to Saxon Wood School and will later find out that Aliens love Underpants.

But if the aliens can come to Earth does that mean we can travel to the moon? With the help of the book 'Whatever Next' we will plan our own trip to moon to find out what it's like up there. When we get to the moon we will see there are lots of things to explore with our senses from moon sand to moon craters and all the bright stars in the dark sky.

We will learn about some of the most famous astronauts including the first man on the moon - Neil Armstrong, and will then learn about some of the planets in our solar system before heading back down to Earth with a bump.

PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This half term we will be looking at how we can build our relationships. There will be lots of opportunity to work together with our classmates when we build our own spaceship to travel up to the moon.

We will enjoy re-enacting the story 'Whatever next' and enjoy a picnic on the moon with our friends.

Outdoor Learning:

There will be lots of opportunity for outdoor learning when we build our spaceship using natural and recycled objects and travel up to space.



Communication and Language

We will continue to work on our listening and attention skills through Bucket Time where our focus will be on the moon. We have some really engaging activities planned to capture the attention of the children such as '5 little spacemen splat'

Some of our key words that we will be learning Makaton for will be 'moon', 'aliens', 'rocket' and 'space'

Outdoor Learning:

The garden is a great place for us to enjoy lots of space themed role play and further work on our communication and language



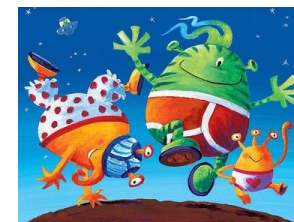
Physical Development

Our fine motor skills will be getting a good work out this half term as we explore moon sand and moon dough and practise making moon rocks (scrunched tin foil) and placing them into the moon craters (egg boxes).

When we land on the moon we will find out how it might feel to move working on our gross motor skills both in class and in the sensory room which reminds us of space.

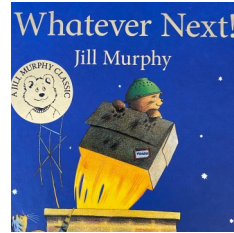
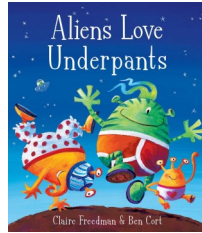
Outdoor Learning:

Outside we will have lots of fun as we complete in the upside down pant races and obstacle course inspired by the book 'Aliens love'



SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

Literacy



Stories:

We will be reading a wide range of stories this term. Our key texts are 'Aliens love Underpants', 'Whatever Next', 'Goodnight Spaceman' and 'Back to Earth with a bump'. These books will take us on our journey from meeting the aliens to visiting the moon.

We will also start to look at sequencing our stories and investigating key people and events.

Phonics:

We will be continuing to work on Phase 1 phonics looking at environmental sounds, instrumental sounds and body percussion. This will be incorporated into our topic work. Some of the children will also be working on the Phase 2 'SATP' sounds in smaller groups.

Mark Making & Writing:

There will be so many opportunities for mark making in this topic when we explore alien slime, moon sand and moon dough. We will encourage the children to use both their fingers and various tools

Outdoor Learning: We will take some of our mark making outside with our messy exploratory play that we can practise our mark making in.



Maths



Numbers 1-5:

We will continue to learn all about the numbers 1-5 through a variety of space themed songs such as 'Five little men in a flying saucer' and 'Five little aliens' and working on our understanding of each number through play based activities like counting the moon rocks in the craters.

Big and Small:

We will also be looking at the concept of 'big' and 'small' and making comparisons between a variety of items both in our classroom and in our outdoor areas and also making other comparisons such as light and dark when we investigate the bright stars against the dark sky.

Outdoor Learning:

Maths is incorporated into our outdoor area using our messy exploratory play area where we will be able to count objects hidden in the tray and make comparisons between big and small.

When building our outdoor rocket we will need to make sure we have the correct number of parts. We will also use our outdoor spaceship that we have built and practise our counting down to 5 as we blast off into space.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

Understanding the World

We will be learning all about astronauts looking as some of the most famous astronauts including Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. We will investigate what it is like to live up in space and the types of things that astronauts can do and eat making comparisons with ourselves.

Our topic will help the children to learn that beyond the world in which we live there is more out there. Our prime focus is the moon but we will also look at the milky way, the stars, the sun and the planets to get a good overall understanding of the solar system and where our world fits within it.

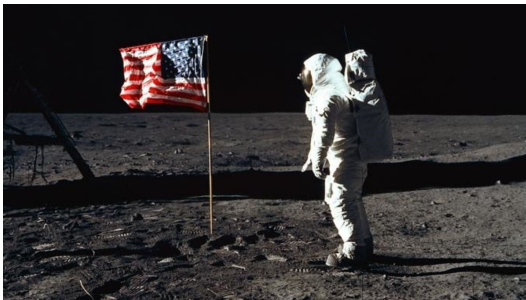
Our investigations will also lead us to look at light and dark using torches and glow in the dark stars in our space den!

Expressive Art & Design

In EAD we will be recreating the story 'Whatever Next' by identifying the key characters and playing out their roles. We will use household objects, just like they do in the story to fly to the moon where we will enjoy a picnic together with our friends.

Our spaceship will be our biggest class project. It will take lot of teamwork to build it and is a great opportunity for the children to gather inspiration from the stories that we have read and the pictures that we have looked at to design a rocket together.

The children will have the opportunity to practise scissor skills, junk modelling, painting, gluing, adding decoration and using a variety of media and tools in order to get the rocket looking just how we designed it.





Additional Information

Thursday 10th November: School Photos

Friday 11th November: Remembrance Day. Come to school wearing red.

Friday 18th November: Children in Need Day

Monday 21st November: Parents Evening

Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th December: Christmas Play

Wednesday 14th December: Christmas Dinner Day & Party

Friday 16th December: 1.30pm Finish

Christmas Holidays: 19th December — 2nd January 2023