

## LEARNING LETTER - PANDA CLASS (SPRING TERM 2025)

<b>MY COMMUNICATION</b> <b>Communication and Literacy</b>	<b>MY BODY</b> <b>Physical Skills</b>	<b>MY INDEPENDENCE</b> <b>Skills for Life</b>
<p>This Spring our topic is 'To Infinity and Beyond- Seasons and Weather plus Space'. Throughout the term, we will explore the wonders of space, changes in the seasons, and the effects of different types of weather. Our learning will include stories such as <i>Tree Seasons Come- Seasons Go</i>, <i>Pumpkin Soup</i> and <i>Man on the Moon</i> which will allow us to develop our comprehension and understanding skills by following instructions.</p> <p>We will further enhance language development through matching activities and describing photos using colourful semantics and symbols. We will also engage in creative sensory experiences, exploring mark-making and fine motor activities inspired by space and weather. To support communication, we will focus on using PECs (Picture Exchange Communication System) to make requests and share thoughts, fostering confidence in expressing ideas.</p> <p><b>Ways you can help your child:</b></p>	<p>We will focus on improving coordination, balance, and motor skills while exploring seasonal changes, weather patterns, and the wonders of space. To support regulation and readiness for learning, we will engage in sensory circuits inspired by weather and space themes. These circuits will help pupils develop gross motor skills, balance, and coordination. Activities include movements like "star jumps" and "planet rolls" to tie into our space theme, alongside whole-body exercises such as crawling, stomping, and jumping.</p> <p>We will also take part in space-themed dance sessions, parachute games inspired by weather phenomena, and our weekly swimming sessions, where pupils will build water confidence and practice key movements.</p> <p><b>Ways you can help your child:</b></p> <p>Try a simple space-themed sensory circuit at home:</p>	<p>We will explore the local environment, observing how the weather and seasons change throughout the term. These activities will help build awareness and understanding of the world around us while promoting engagement and curiosity.</p> <p>In cooking, we are focusing on preparing simple meals like toast and vegetable soup. Pupils will practice chopping vegetables, spreading butter, peeling ingredients, and understanding kitchen safety.</p> <p><b>Ways you can help your child at home:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support your child in the kitchen by helping them chop soft foods like bananas or spread butter on toast, reinforcing their fine motor skills.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share stories and encourage your child to point out different objects, such as stars, planets, and seasonal items, in books.</li> <li>• Support your child in expressing preferences using verbal and non-verbal communication by offering simple choices (e.g., choosing between 2-3 items).</li> <li>• Have fun exploring sensory mark-making! Fill a tray with rice, flour, or lentils, and practice drawing shapes like circles, lines, or stars together.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rocket Arms – Reach arms up high and stretch like a rocket taking off (10 times).</li> <li>• Moon Walk – Take slow, exaggerated steps across the room.</li> <li>• Star Jumps – Jump up with arms and legs stretched wide like a star (10 times).</li> <li>• Planet Rolls – Lie on the floor and roll sideways like a spinning planet.</li> <li>• Comet Stretches – Stretch arms forward and backwards in a flowing motion like a comet (10 times).</li> </ul> <p>Encourage your child to explore weather-themed activities, such as pretending to be the wind by waving scarves or splashing water like raindrops in a safe space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in simple swimming movements during bath time or water play to help your child feel more confident in the pool.</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>MY COMMUNITY</b> <b>Personal Development</b></p> <p>This term, we will focus on celebrating significant cultural and international events, including International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Hinduism (Holi), Valentine’s Day, and exploring relationships with family and friends.</p> <p>We will explore contributions made by inspirational women in science through activities and stories. During Holi, we will celebrate with colourful artwork and sensory experiences, encouraging creativity and teamwork. Our focus on family and friends will involve activities where pupils explore relationships and communication, such as role-playing and creating friendship-themed crafts.</p> <p><b>Ways you can help your child at home:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate achievements of women in science: Watch videos or read simple stories about scientists like Marie Curie or Mae Jemison.</li> <li>• Enjoy Holi-inspired creativity: Have fun with colourful crafts, like painting or sensory activities using vibrant materials.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MY COGNITION</b> <b>Digital Literacy, Maths and Working World</b></p> <p>This term, our focus in Cognition includes an exciting range of activities across Digital Literacy, Maths, History, Geography, and Science, all tied to our theme of "Weather, Seasons, and Space."</p> <p><b>Digital Literacy</b> We will use iPads and ICT toys to develop understanding of cause and effect. Students will also use the Purple Mash software to enhance their learning in literacy and maths, combining technology with education to build key skills.</p> <p><b>Maths</b> Our Maths focus this term is on number-place value and shapes. Pupils will explore numbers through counting games, number songs, and practical activities like sorting and matching quantities. We'll also work on recognizing and understanding shapes in our environment.</p> <p><b>Working World and Science</b> In Science and Geography, we will conduct weather experiments, learn about seasonal changes, and explore the Earth's place in the</p>	<p><b>MY CREATIVITY</b> <b>Art, DT and Music</b></p> <p><b>Art</b> In Art, pupils will experiment with splatter painting techniques inspired by Charles Bittinger, exploring colour and texture to represent weather patterns. Additionally, we will create weather-themed art using sensory materials and tools to build engagement and motor skills.</p> <p><b>Music</b> In Music, we will compose weather-themed music and engage in sensory sound exploration. Pupils will listen to sounds of the weather, such as rain or wind, and experiment with instruments to recreate these sounds. Activities will include creating rhythms and beats to mimic weather patterns and using their homemade instruments.</p> <p><b>Ways you can help your child at home:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a simple shaker with your child by filling an empty bottle with rice or pasta. Explore the different sounds it can make.</li> <li>• Listen to a range of weather sounds together (e.g., rain, thunder, or wind)</li> </ul>
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- Talk about family and friends: Look at family photos together and encourage your child to name and describe the people they see.

universe. Pupils will also observe how the weather changes daily and seasonally.

#### History

Our History topic will explore the life of Neil Armstrong as a significant individual. Through stories and hands-on activities, pupils will learn about his journey to the moon and why it is important.

#### **Ways you can help your child at home:**

- Encourage your child to play educational games on an iPad or tablet to practice cause and effect.
- Engage in everyday counting activities at home (e.g., counting plates for the table or pegs for laundry).
- Sing number songs like “5 Little Ducks” or “The Eight Planets” to reinforce counting.
- Talk about daily weather changes and the seasons, pointing out the differences they notice.
- Share books or watch videos about Neil Armstrong to spark interest in his achievements.

and mimic them using household objects or instruments.

- Encourage your child to explore painting techniques, such as splattering or using different brushes, to express how different weather feels.