

LEARNING LETTER - PANDA CLASS (SPRING TERM 2 2025)

MY COMMUNICATION Communication and Literacy	MY BODY Physical Skills	MY INDEPENDENCE Skills for Life
<p>This Spring our topic is 'To Infinity and Beyond-Space'. Throughout the term, we will explore the wonders of space. Our learning will include stories such as <i>Man on the Moon</i> and <i>The Darkest Dark</i>, allowing us to develop our comprehension and understanding skills by following instructions.</p> <p>We will enhance language development by 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. 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>Ways you can help your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share stories and encourage your child to point out different objects, such as stars, the Earth, the moon and planets in books. 	<p>We will focus on improving coordination, balance, and motor skills while exploring the wonders of space. To support regulation and readiness for learning, we will engage in sensory circuits inspired by 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 and our weekly swimming sessions, where pupils will build water confidence and practice key movements.</p> <p>Ways you can help your child:</p> <p>Try a simple space-themed sensory circuit at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rocket Arms – Reach arms up high and stretch like a rocket taking off (10 times). 	<p>We will practice threading using space-themed threading cards. We will begin with simpler activities and gradually increase the level of difficulty.</p> <p>In cooking lessons, we will focus on preparing space rocks cakes and marshmallow Krispie cakes. Pupils will practice measuring ingredients, following step-by-step instructions, and understanding kitchen safety, including proper handling of utensils and hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Ways you can help your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to help mix ingredients when making space rock cakes, improving their hand-eye coordination. Guide them in scooping and measuring ingredients for crispy cakes, strengthening their grasp and precision. Let them decorate space-themed treats with icing or sprinkles, enhancing their creativity and dexterity.

- Support your child in expressing preferences using verbal and non-verbal communication by offering simple choices (e.g., choosing between 2-3 items).
- Have fun exploring sensory mark-making! Fill a tray with rice, flour, or lentils, and practice drawing shapes like circles, lines, or stars together.

- Moon Walk – Take slow, exaggerated steps across the room.
- Star Jumps – Jump up with arms and legs stretched wide like a star (10 times).
- Planet Rolls – Lie on the floor and roll sideways like a spinning planet.
- Comet Stretches – Stretch arms forward and backwards in a flowing motion like a comet (10 times).

- Assist them in rolling or shaping dough for cookies, developing their finger strength and control.

<p>MY COMMUNITY Personal Development</p> <p>This term, we will focus on celebrating significant cultural and international events, including Holi, Family, Baha'i (World Religion Day), Hinduism and Sikhism for RE.</p> <p>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>Ways you can help your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy Holi-inspired creativity: Have fun with colourful crafts, like painting or sensory activities using vibrant materials. • Talk about family and friends: Look at family photos together and encourage your child to name and describe the people they see. 	<p>MY COGNITION Digital Literacy, Maths and Working World</p> <p>This term, our focus on Cognition includes an exciting range of activities across Digital Literacy, Maths, History and Science, all tied to our theme of "Space".</p> <p>Digital Literacy We will use iPads and ICT toys to develop an understanding of E-Safety. 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>Maths Our Maths focus this term is on Geometry: 2D Shapes. Pupils will explore shapes by recognising and naming them, counting their sides through games, engaging with shape songs, and participating in practical activities such as sorting and matching shapes. Additionally, we will work on identifying and understanding shapes in our environment.</p> <p>Working World and Science In Science, we will explore the Earth and Space, learning about the planets in our solar system. Pupils will engage in hands-on activities, experiments, and interactive discussions to</p>	<p>MY CREATIVITY Art, DT and Music</p> <p>Art In Art, pupils will explore Charles Bitteringer's space-inspired paintings and create their own Space Art. They will also make papier-mâché planets using sensory materials and tools to enhance engagement and develop motor skills.</p> <p>Music In Music, we will compose space-themed music and engage in sensory sound exploration. Pupils will listen to space-related sounds and experiment with instruments to recreate these effects. Activities will include creating rhythms and beats to mimic planetary movements and star patterns.</p> <p>Ways you can help your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to explore painting techniques, such as splattering or using different brushes, to express how different weather feels. • Play space-themed music or ambient space sounds, and encourage your child to describe how the music makes them feel or move along to the rhythm to
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	<p>develop their understanding of space and its impact on our daily lives.</p> <p>History</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ways you can help your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sing songs like “The Eight Planets” to reinforce their learning.• Share books or watch videos about Neil Armstrong to spark interest in his achievements.	<p>enhance their listening and creative expression skills.</p>
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