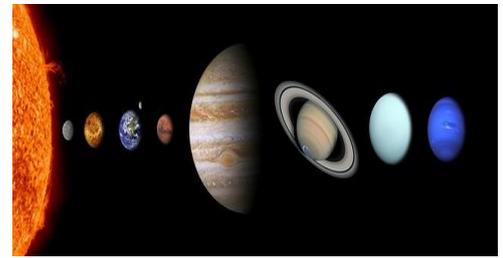


# Curriculum Letter

## Spring Term 2020

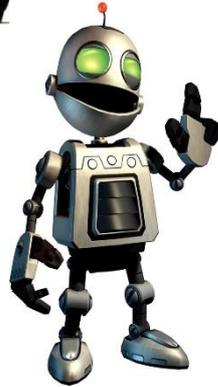


### The focus for this term is

## 'Space, Rockets, Machines and Robots

#### Learning will be based around:

- What is Space?
- How would you get there?
- What is in Space?
- Rockets
- Tim Peake
- The International Space Station
- The Moon - The first man on the Moon - Neil Armstrong
- The Planets and the Solar System.
- Rockets.
- How do machines work?
- What do machines do?
- Robots
- Chinese New Year
- Spring / baby animals
- Easter



#### Welcome

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the beginning of the new term. We hope that you all have had a lovely Christmas break and we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new children and parents. Your child will be taught by two teachers during the course of a week - Mrs Parkes will teach Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Mrs Willis will be teaching Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please find outlined key information for the term. On the back of this letter you will find curriculum information and activities that you may wish to try at home.

#### Voluntary Contribution

We ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p a week. This enables us to 'cook' up lots of exciting things in our kitchen area with the children which allow them to experience working with, and trying new foods. Without this voluntary contribution we would not be able to do these exciting things. Thank you.

#### Teaching Staff

Mrs Parkes

Mrs Willis

Mrs Laughton

Mrs Binns

#### Book Home Loan

In Nursery, we operate a book home loan system which is situated in the cloakroom area. Choose a book with your child to share at home. If you loved it, recommend it to your friends.

#### Outdoor Learning

We go outside as much as possible (usually every day) please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear.

#### Dates for your diary -

Open evening -drop in no appointment needed - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 3.45-6pm

<p><b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b></p> <p>We will be settling the children back in to Nursery and back into their routines. With the new children, we will be supporting them in their new environment settling them in, making them feel safe and ready to learn. The children will participate in weekly circle times and will follow the SEAL scheme of work. This term it involves the topics 'Good to be me' and 'Going for Goals'.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage your child to talk to you about things they have done at Nursery and any new friends they may have made.</li> <li>- Play games that involve taking turns and sharing</li> <li>- Use the 'I can Camel' stickers to let us know what your child has achieved at home.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to learn new things and talk to them about things they can do and things they want to learn to do.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p>This term we will be focusing on developing physical skills using the outdoor space and using scooters, bikes and ride on vehicles. We will also work on skills such as running with control, jumping up and down and off equipment, and climbing. We will be having fun with 'Squiggle while you wiggle' sessions to help develop finer manipulative skills.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take a trip to the park and encourage your child to climb and jump from play equipment safely.</li> <li>- Take part in threading, cutting, painting and drawing activities</li> <li>- Encourage your child to draw pictures and write their name, using a variety of writing implements and encourage the correct pencil grip.</li> <li>- Practice jumping up and down with both feet together and landing correctly with bent knees. Try hopping!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p>This term we will be continuing to focus on developing speaking and listening skills, whilst listening to stories and instructions, playing in role play situations and communicating with each other.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage your child to speak as much as possible at home, talking to them about everyday life and activities that you have done together and any new experiences.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to use toys/puppets to retell stories or events.</li> <li>- Set up role play situations with your child and play the parts of different characters together.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to ask and answer questions about everyday things.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>The children will be learning to recognise their name and begin to be able to write it. For those who can already write their first name we will be working on writing surnames. Children will be receiving Name books to take home, which will support them in learning to write their names. Phonics work will involve listening and memory skills, and developing an awareness of rhyme for the younger children. For the older children, we will be introducing letter sounds each week following the Jolly Phonics program. When your child is ready, they will receive a sound book to bring home so you can practice the sounds with them. Please ensure that you return the sound books at the end of each week so new sounds can be added. We will also be enjoying various stories around the theme of space, rockets, and aliens.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support your child in recognising and writing their name and surname.</li> <li>- Enjoy sharing stories together.</li> <li>- Visit a local library.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to talk about stories they have listened to and say what their favourite part was and why.</li> </ul>

## Mathematics

In Maths the children will be continuing to learn to recognise numbers to 10 and beyond, to count and to sing number rhymes. They will also be working with Numicon to support their mathematical learning. We will be consolidating our shape and shape work by making pictures with shapes and identifying the shapes they have used. We will also be introducing 3D shape and building with them.

### At home activities

- Sing number rhymes with your child
- Count objects in the environment
- Play simple matching and number games
- Play simple number recognition games
- Make pictures using shapes.
- Make pictures using patterns
- Look at patterns in the environment whilst on a walk outdoors.
- Encourage your child to find items at home of different colours. Build models with your child using junk and encourage them to identify the 3D shapes they have used eg - cube, cylinders, cones etc.

## Understanding the World

We will be learning about Space and our Solar System, introducing the children to the planets and their names and how we could travel there using rockets, and also learning about the International Space Station. We will be talking about the Moon, it's phases and learning about the first man on the moon - Neil Armstrong. We will be introducing the children to the idea of life on other planets and will be doing some lovely imaginative work on aliens. This will also give us the opportunity to talk about what we need to sustain life and to keep us fit and healthy. We will also be learning about Tim Peake and his time on the International Space Station. As the weather begins to change we will talk about seasons leading from Winter into Spring. As part of our cultural work we will take a look at festivals such as Chinese New Year. After half term our work will revolve around machines and what they can do, giving us the opportunity to also learn about robots. We will also be getting the children involved in some exciting cooking activities, which will involve learning about ingredients, preparation, processes, where food comes from, hygiene, healthy eating and tasting!

### At home activities

- Look at encyclopedias, non fiction books and stories about space, the moon, planets, rockets, aliens, machines and robots.
- With care, look at the internet with your child to research information about our topic - introducing the idea of retrieving information from not only books but from the computer / internet.
- Take your child outside in the dark to look at the moon and stars - talk about what you can see. Look at the moon and stars through a telescope or binoculars. Talk about the shape of the moon and why it is not always seen as a full moon.
- Try to spot the International Space Station in the sky.
- Take a look at Google Earth with your child and explore what the earth looks like from space or even just try to spot where you live and your house.
- Look around your home - what machines can you find? What are they used for and how do they work?
- Go to the park in the winter / spring - Can you spot any signs of winter or spring?
- Talk about baby animals that are born in the spring time and their names.
- Cook or bake with your child - explain the processes involved - have you used any machines to bake with?

## Expressive Arts and Design

This term the children will be continuing to learn songs and playing instruments, experimenting how sounds can be changed during Music Time and Beat Baby. They will also be working on building models using various construction kits, blocks and using junk to stick and join together. They will have the opportunity to draw and create pictures and paintings whilst exploring how colours can be mixed to make new colours. The children also have the opportunity to engage in a 'messy play' session where the children can enjoy exploring a range of different textures whilst using their imagination and senses.

### At home activities

- Sing simple songs and nursery rhymes together
- Encourage your child to paint or draw to create pictures.
- Provide a variety of junk boxes - let them explore what they can make and how they can fix them together.

Feel free to inform us in school of any activities your child has joined in with you. You can also use the 'I Can Camel' stickers to inform us of things your child has learnt to do at home.

- And ... if you are feeling brave, let your child mix different coloured paints together to make new colours.
- Explore and describe different materials found outside in winter and talk about the changing of the seasons and weather.

**What is Squiggle while you Wiggle and why we do it?**

Once a week your child will take part in a *Squiggle while you wiggle* session. This involves learning and practising a gross motor movement to music, (such as Jackson 5 ABC, Tina Turner Rollin) Beginning with dancing the movement with pompoms or wands, then moving on to making the marks with crayons, paint or chalks. We talk about the movements as we are making them i.e "Up, up, down, down" for straight lines, "Up and over" for arches, as well as which letter shapes they can help to write. Children need control of all of their fingers, both arms and body to be able to write, co-ordination is a key skill. We use Squiggle while you wiggle to help achieve this. It supports many of the EYFS objectives including, beginning to show some control in the use of tools and equipment, distinguishing and ascribing meaning between the different marks they see and make, and beginning to use anti-clockwise movements and retracing vertical lines.

**Beat Baby**

Beat Baby is an appealing character designed to bring excitement and encouragement to rhyme and music sessions. This tiny character curls up in a ball, until the children wake her up with a rhyme. The children are then encouraged to join in with a variety of action songs which have steady beats to develop a sense of rhythm. Beat Baby can also be used to promote speaking, listening, creativity and thinking skills. The children take it in turns to take Beat Baby home on a Friday, with a short task for you and your child to do together.

