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### Curriculum Information Letter – Reception 2025-2026 – Spring 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half-term our topic is “Out of this World!”. The children will be learning all about space, planets, astronauts and the natural world, while continuing to develop their independence, confidence and key learning skills across all areas of the curriculum.

<b>Curriculum Plan for 2025-2026 – Spring 1</b>	
Communication and Language	We will be continuing to develop children’s listening and attention skills through daily carpet time, stories and discussions. The children will practise responding to questions, recalling story events and taking turns in conversation. They will also be encouraged to speak in full sentences, share their ideas and talk about their learning with confidence.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	This half-term we will focus on self-regulation, independence and friendships. Children will learn to name and talk about their feelings, use calming strategies when upset, celebrate their achievements and take pride in their learning. We will continue to build independence in self-care, including putting their own coats on, putting their belongings away and asking for help politely. We will also focus on developing positive friendships, sharing, turn-taking and playing kindly with others.
Physical Development	Children will continue to develop both their gross and fine motor skills. They will strengthen their hand control through cutting, drawing, painting and construction activities. Fine motor skills will be developed further through craft, junk modelling and tool use. Outdoor learning and movement activities will continue daily to support strength, balance and coordination.
Religious Education	In RE, we will be learning about why Jesus is special to Christians. The children will explore a range of Bible stories including The Lost Sheep, Jesus in the Temple, Feeding the 5000 and the healing miracles. They will learn that Christians believe Jesus teaches people to love one another and will reflect on how they can show love and kindness in their own lives.
Phonics	In Phonics, children will continue with Phase 3 learning. They will learn new sounds, blend to read words, spell simple words and read tricky words by sight. Children will practise reading and writing using longer words and begin to apply their phonics knowledge more confidently in their independent work.
Literacy	This half-term our Literacy learning is closely linked to our Space topic through our core texts Whatever Next!, Aliens Love Underpants and How to Catch a Star.  Through Whatever Next! the children will use their imaginations, make predictions, ask and answer questions, create lists (such as picnic and travel lists), and begin to

	<p>retell stories using beginning, middle and end. They will draw and write about special places, develop their understanding of initial sounds, and act out scenes through role play and freeze frames.</p> <p>Using <i>Aliens Love Underpants</i>, children will explore descriptive language, positional language (under, in, on, behind), and how to describe objects using key features. They will write thought bubbles, create and label aliens, write full sentences to describe their creations, design special underpants for characters and produce Wanted Posters using descriptive vocabulary.</p> <p>Through <i>How to Catch a Star</i>, children will think creatively about problem solving, share their ideas and dreams, and talk about friendship and kindness. They will learn new vocabulary from the text, explore fiction and non-fiction, identify initial sounds and diagraphs, create acrostic poems, and begin to understand story elements such as character, setting, problem and solution.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths, children will develop their understanding of numbers 0–8. They will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and use zero</li> <li>• Count, match, represent and subitise numbers</li> <li>• Find one more and one less</li> <li>• Explore part–whole relationships</li> <li>• Compare mass and capacity</li> <li>• Combine groups, explore odd and even and make doubles</li> </ul> <p>Maths learning will be very practical, using real objects, games, songs and problem-solving activities both indoors and outdoors.</p>
Understanding the World	<p>Children will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Time and routines</b> – creating simple timelines of their day and week</li> <li>• <b>Families and special people</b></li> <li>• <b>Seasonal change</b>, focusing on <b>Winter</b></li> <li>• <b>Different places in the world</b>, including hot and cold environments</li> <li>• <b>Technology</b>, using iPads and the interactive board to find information</li> <li>• <b>Space and the natural world</b>, comparing Earth with other planets, the Sun and Moon and changes over time</li> </ul> <p>Children will take part in investigations, seasonal walks, map work and simple research projects.</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p>Our creative learning will be closely linked to our <b>Space topic</b>. Children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw astronauts and show <b>emotions in their artwork</b></li> <li>• Explore <b>colour, light and dark</b>, inspired by artist <b>Joan Miró</b></li> <li>• Investigate different <b>types of paint and textures</b></li> <li>• Create <b>prints</b> using natural and man-made materials</li> <li>• Design a <b>space suit</b> using a range of fabrics</li> <li>• Build and construct <b>3D rockets</b> using junk modelling</li> </ul> <p>Children will be encouraged to experiment, create freely and talk about their design choices.</p>
Homework	<p>Phonics and letter formation homework will continue to be sent home on a Wednesday. This should be returned to school each Tuesday.</p>

Reading books will continue to be sent home on a Monday and should be brought into school every day. Books will be changed weekly to match the book being read in class.

If you have any questions about our learning this half-term, please feel free to ask me on the classroom door.

Thank you for your continued support  
Michael