

Reception Newsletter - Spring 1 2026

Topic this term - 'Out of this world'

Our topic for the half term is 'Out of this World'. We will be learning about different types of places in and around the world. Attached is a curriculum map and vocabulary list for this half term.

We started the term by reading 'The Man on the Moon' and next week we read the story 'Aliens Love Underpants'.

Following that we will move our learning to the jungle when we read 'Rumble in the jungle'. We will use this book to learn about rhyming words.

After the jungle we will dive under the sea to learn about sharks. The following week we will use the Octonauts as inspiration to write our own creature reports about different creatures that live in the ocean.

For the last week of term, we will go back in time to discover how the dinosaurs lived and what they ate.

Reading and writing

| | |
|--|--|
| Introduce Phase 3 digraphs (two letters that make one sound) | Form lower-case letters correctly |
| Blend phonemes to read CVC words such as cat, c-a-t, dad, d-a-d, dog d-o-g, sh-o-p, r-i-ng | Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s |
| Read tricky words, which are words that do not follow the pattern of what has been taught so far in phonics. | Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences |

Tricky words –

Reminder - These are in your book bag, please practice recognising these words and spotting them in books.

| | | | | |
|------|------|-----|-----|------|
| is | I | the | put | pull |
| full | as | and | has | his |
| her | go | no | to | into |
| she | push | he | of | we |
| me | be | | | |

Spring 1

| | Phase 3 graphemes | New tricky words |
|--------|---|------------------|
| Week 1 | ai ee igh oa | |
| Week 2 | oo oo ar or | was you they |
| Week 3 | ur ow oi ear | my by all |
| Week 4 | air er words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp | are sure pure |
| Week 5 | longer words | |

Vocabulary List

| Weekly stories | General vocabulary | Topic words | Maths Vocab |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | moon alien rocket picnic somersaults handstands performs jetting off | astronaut craters souvenir launch-pad moon suit Saturn Mars tourist | introducing zero subitise 0-5 represent 0-5 find one more find one less composition of number 0-5 |
|  | alien space underpants | Earth spaceship | How many altogether? Composition of numbers 1-5 in 3 groups |
|  | Animal names: giraffe monkey snake zebra tiger lion crocodile | Rhyming words: dog, frog cat, mat tap, map van, man | capacity heavier / lighter full / empty |
|  | shark sea ocean teeth tail fin | hammerhead shark blue shark tiger shark whale shark | Numbers 6, 7, and 8 1 more / 1 less |
|  | shell crab octopus starfish whale jellyfish | manta ray pufferfish coral clownfish squid | pairs combine altogether |
|  | head and neck tail teeth plates scales meat eater herbivore | T-Rex Tyrannosaurus Rex Stegosaurus Pterodactyl Triceratops | measuring tall / short longer / shorter time days of the week |