



EYFS – Spring Term 1

Happy New Year! We hope you had a fabulous Christmas break celebrating with friends and family and are ready to start the new year back at Gillibrand. This half term, our topic will be **Space**. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned throughout the half term to engage children in this wonderful and fascinating topic. Remember to look at our latest news on <https://gillibrand.lancs.sch.uk/> and to regularly check class dojo for messages and reminders about upcoming events.

Important Dates:

Tuesday 3rd January – INSET Day

Wednesday 4th January – Term Begins

Friday 13th January – Reception Chinese New Year party (*wear something with a rabbit/something red*)

W/B 16th January – Leave a Legacy Week
(Reception will be learning about Neil Armstrong)

Thursday 2nd February – 2pm-3pm Parent workshop in school – *Terrific Transport Thursday! Come and help your child make a rocket ☺*

Tuesday 7th February – Online Safety Day

Thursday 7th February – Rockstars day – Dress up as Rocksats

Wednesday 8th February – School Disco (3:15-

English

Key Texts – throughout our English sessions, we will be exploring the topic of Space. We will be exploring the texts of Beegu, How to catch a star, The Darkest Dark and Aliens love underpants. We will also be looking at some non-fiction texts to explore facts about Space. When looking at non-fiction texts we will introduce the children to the concept of a contents page and what it is used for.

Early Writing – we will continue to focus on writing 3 letter CVC words and looking at letter formation. We will be using the terminology of **say it – stretch it – sound it**. Children will learn to write 3 and 4 letter words accurately, before moving on to writing longer sentences. Some children are ready to begin writing captions and developing their understanding of a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, finger spaces between words and a full stop at the end of the sentence. Please remember that children all develop at a different pace and we will change our teaching accordingly to help your child develop from their own personal next steps.

Phonics

In Phonics, we will be learning about double letter sounds (such as ss, ff and ll) as well as consolidating our understanding of the sounds we have already learnt. We will be focusing on blending and segmenting the sounds in words.

Reading

Children will continue to take home a reading book appropriate to their reading skill and ability. We will continue to monitor children's reading closely and move them up to the next book band when appropriate. Please try to read as often as possible at home – we aim for a minimum of 3 times per week. Please ensure that you have written in your child's reading record to indicate that you have read with them – this lets us know that they are ready for a new book on book change day. We will continue to change books on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Communication and Language

Within our communication and language, we will be looking for the children to use new vocabulary linked to Space. We will be discussing the planet names and using words such as; moon, sun, astronaut, Sun, Earth, comet, asteroids, orbit – as well as many more! Through discussion and practise, children will be able to use these new vocabulary words accurately to discuss Space.

Maths

In maths we will continue to develop our key areas of subitising, counting, cardinality, ordinality and comparison with larger numbers. Children will be looking at the way numbers are made up and how they can be broken into separate parts.

We will also be working on developing our understanding of 2D and 3D shapes as we use them to create rockets for our Space topic.

Expressive Art and Design

This half term, children will be looking at colour mixing and developing an understanding of what happens when different colours are mixed together. We will be using a few colours of paint to see if we can make all the colours of the rainbow!

Children will also be exploring how to create pictures with different materials such as oil pastels and charcoal.

Physical Development

From January, the children's PE kits will need to return to school as we will be getting them changed for Fundamental Multi-Skills sessions provided by an external agency. Please help your children develop their independent dressing skills at home – we expect that they should need minimum adult support as they move through the year.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

This half term we will be looking at the concepts of **gratitude** and **being helpful**. Children will develop an understanding of what they have to be thankful for and we will be looking at how gratitude can help us to live more positively!

Understanding the World

This half term, children will be learning all about Chinese New Year. We will be looking at the Year of the Rabbit which is beginning on January 22nd. We will also be learning how the Chinese celebrate new year and making some crafts linked to new year celebrations.

We will also be looking at transport and different methods of transport. We will explore questions around why we use different transport for different journeys – for example, because of time or cost. We will also explore how transport has changed over time.

Will be exploring the concepts of freezing and melting. Looking at what happens to water when it is cooled down and heated.