

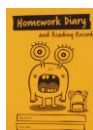
Year 5 Newsletter – Autumn Term 2026



	
Engage	Journey through space—the final frontier! Year 5, are you ready to become an astronomer and space scientist? What do you already know about the Solar System? Which planet would you most like to visit, and what mysteries of space would you like to solve? This term, we will explore the wonders of the Solar System through exciting images, models and scientific investigations. We will also step inside an amazing planetarium and take an unforgettable journey through space. Are you ready for lift-off?
Develop	Science – We will explore the Sun, Earth and Moon, as well as the order and key features of the planets in our Solar System. We will learn how Earth and the other planets orbit the Sun, how the Moon orbits Earth, and how Earth’s rotation causes day and night. We will also investigate gravity and discover how the work of influential scientists, including Galileo Galilei and Sir Isaac Newton, helped to shape our understanding of space. English – Our space-themed reading and writing will include scientific explanations, informative reports and imaginative descriptions. We will develop our use of ambitious vocabulary while learning to communicate our ideas clearly, accurately and creatively. Computing – We will explore selection in physical computing, using our knowledge to design, create and refine programs. We will also develop our media skills by planning, filming and editing our own videos. Art – We will create striking, space-inspired artwork influenced by the distinctive style and techniques of artist Peter Thorpe. Design and Technology – We will investigate existing lunar rovers and rockets before designing, making and evaluating our own models.
Innovate	Year 5, your mission—should you choose to accept it—is to become space explorers and design an amazing rocket for the UK Space Agency! How strong will your rocket be? Will it have an eye-catching design? How high or how far will it travel? You will test your rocket against other models, carefully record your results and use your findings to improve your design. Can you complete the challenge and persuade the UK Space Agency that your rocket is ready for lift-off?
Express	Once we have become space experts, we will explore why Earth can support life and consider whether life might exist elsewhere in the universe. Using our knowledge and imaginations, we will then design our own alien life forms.
Key Vocabulary	asteroid, axis, celestial, constellation, crater, dwarf planet, Earth, eclipse, galaxy, gravity, Moon, orbit, phase, planet, rotate, satellite, Solar System, sphere, star, Sun, telescope, universe
Other Areas Taught Discretely	Maths: This term, we will develop our understanding of place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also explore factors, multiples and prime numbers before learning to compare, order, add and subtract fractions. Throughout the term, we will strengthen reasoning and problem-solving skills. RE: In RE, the children will deepen their understanding of Judaism by exploring key Jewish beliefs, the Torah, the synagogue, worship and important festivals. They will also learn that Jewish identity and practice are diverse, considering how Judaism may influence the lives and choices of Jewish people in Britain today. PSHE: Children will learn that all emotions are important and develop strategies to help them face and manage challenges. PE: In PE this term, we will develop teamwork, passing, catching and movement skills through rugby. In gymnastics, we will create and perform sequences using balances, rolls, jumps and different ways of travelling, with a focus on control, coordination and creativity.



Home Reading



Even if your child is already a proficient reader, please encourage them to read for at least 20 minutes, four times each week, and take time to discuss their book with them. Children should complete their reading journal, with a brief comment added where appropriate. Regular reading and discussion at home help to improve fluency, broaden vocabulary and deepen comprehension.

Spellings

Further information to follow shortly.

PE



PE lessons will take place twice a week. On these days, children should come to school wearing their full PE kit.

Forest End: Tuesdays (Gymnastics) and Thursdays (Rugby)

Church End: Thursday (Rugby) and Friday (Gymnastics)

Homework

Children will receive weekly English and maths homework linked to their classroom learning. They should also practise their spellings and read regularly at home.

Useful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkbbkqt>

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/>

<https://www.esa.int/kids/en/news>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/space>

Knowledge Organiser:

Look out for the Stargazers Knowledge Organiser. It outlines the key information and vocabulary that children should know and remember by the end of the term. Please talk about the topic at home, share any space-related news and enjoy quizzing one another!



Ways to support Stargazers at home:

- Observe the Moon over several evenings and talk about how its shape appears to change.
- Learn the order of the eight planets and compare their sizes, temperatures or number of moons.
- Visit a planetarium, stargaze safely on a clear evening or explore trusted space-agency websites together.
- Read a space-themed book and collect fascinating facts to share with the class.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's education.