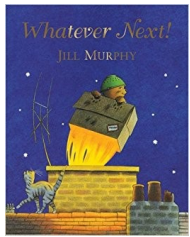


# RECEPTION NEWSLETTER

TO INFINITY, AND BEYOND!

Spring Term, Half-Term 1



Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed your Christmas break. We are very excited about our new focus story, 'Whatever Next!' and all of the learning opportunities that it creates. There are some lovely versions to watch and read online, or you might already own the book at home. We like to learn this story off by heart, link it with music and perform it. Reading it at home too would help this.

## Week 1

We are launching our new topic with the book, 'Whatever Next!'. We will be really getting to know and talking about our new story, along with learning new vocabulary. The staff will be performing the book for the children and the children will have the opportunity to act it out too! This week we are starting to find out about space. We will learn some new facts about space to tell our friends.

## Week 2

This week we will be learning about the moon and doing lots of imaginative play in our space station. We will be going for a walk on the moon and writing about our adventures. At the end of the week we will be packing up our rocket like Baby Bear and going for a real picnic on the moon! Our jigsaw this week is about never giving up. We will be learning a poem called 'The Night Sky'



## Week 3

This week we will be learning about things beyond the moon. We will learn the names of planets and other things in space, sing songs and learn a poem about stars. In Jigsaw PSHE we will be setting ourselves challenges and work towards achieving them.

## Week 4

This week, the aliens are landing! We will have lots of fun using our imaginations and creating aliens using different materials. We learn to describe what we see using interesting words and new vocabulary.

We will be making alien slime, giving instructions to aliens and telling an alien visitor all about our planet: Earth. We will read the poem 'I'd like to meet an Alien' and the story 'Q-Pootle 5'

## Week 5

This week it is the Lunar New Year. We will learn about Chinese New Year, read the story of the great animal race and have our own Chinese restaurant in our classroom. We will continue the story 'Q Pootle 5' and help him to fix his spaceship using lots of different materials so he can get back home. We do lots of problem solving and model making this week.



## Week 6

We will find out about life on a space station and write questions to astronauts. We will be launching a message into space using Mentos and coke. Hopefully it will reach the astronauts and they will reply! We will learn about gravity and try to imagine life without it.

## Maths

We will be learning the numbers 8, 9 and 10 in depth. We will continue to chant beyond 10 and explore larger numbers and numerals in our environment. Look out for the fun, weekly maths challenge that comes through Marvellous Me to practise skills at home. We will also dip into some 'measure' comparing length, estimating and using positional language.



## Reading

Please remember to send your child's book bag every day. The first time you read a new book with your child, read it to them. Talk about what has happened. *Who was in the story? What was the story about? Did anything funny happen? Anything scary? What was your favourite part and why? What do you think will happen next?* This will help your child to become familiar with the story or content before they start reading it. Your child reads with an adult at school at least once a fortnight and every week where possible. Your child can request to change their reading books as often as they like, but please make sure it has been read enough times for your child to become familiar and confident with it. Reading their book regularly and being read to has a huge impact on their early reading development. And if they choose the same book more than once this is GREAT! It shows they have really enjoyed it. Reading for pleasure is very important.



We will be sending home your own set of 'tricky word' cards to play games with at home.

## Wish List

- Spare (clean children's) underpants for our 'Aliens Love Underpants' washing line.
- Spare pants and socks for when children need a change.
- Bottles and tubes and recycling for our rocket making activities.
- If you have a spare packet of pasta, rice or corn flour we will put them to good use in our tactile area.



## Upcoming Events:

- Our moon picnic will take place in school time and on the school premises.
- Our Chinese Restaurant will take place in school time and on the school premises.
- Children are invited to return to school on **Monday 24th January, 5:30-6:30pm** for a special space session. We will find out about the stars in the sky, do some stargazing and enjoy some warm 'hot' chocolate! Children will be met by staff at the main school entrance and returned there to parents and carers at the end.

## Don't forget...

- PE is on **MONDAYS and THURSDAYS** this half term. Your child will need to come to school wearing their PE kit. On Mondays we will be working on Fundamental skills and using a range of equipment. On Thursdays we will be doing gymnastics in smaller groups to accelerate confidence at climbing, balancing and jumping from equipment.
- Look out for our postcards that we are sending home. Tell us about your child's 'Wow!' moments. We really want to hear about them! Have they learned to ride a bike? Made progress with swimming? Spotted numbers on the way home? Written something all by themselves? Read a sign whilst out shopping with you? Celebrated a special occasion? We want to hear about their 'Wow!' moments so please share them with us! Ask your child's teacher for a 'Wow!' heart to write on or email us at [reception@dovecote.school](mailto:reception@dovecote.school)

