

Important dates for Nursery this Half Term:

Mobile Planetarium visit– Friday 13 February 2026

Book Week 23 February – 27 February 2026

Parent Consultations: 24 - 26 February 2026

Half Term: 16 February – 20 February 2026

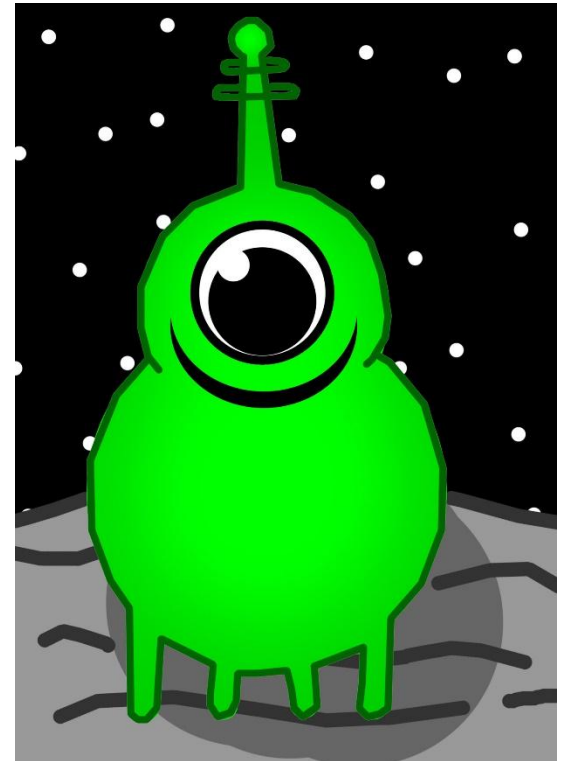
Sheredes Primary School

Fantasy

A note from your teacher

Ways you can help your child:

- Read with your child everyday. Ask them questions about the text/ story. Ask them to predict the ending or describe the characters.
- Point out words that are repeated throughout a book, in particular common words. For example I, a, the, it and. Play 'I Spy' game to support this.
- Reinforce phonemes covered so far when looking at books together .. 'Oh what is this letter'?
- Count with your child everyday. Count aloud to 10 and beyond. Ask your child to count out a given number of objects. Look at numbers in the environment and ask your child to name the number and represent the amount using their fingers.
- Support your child in writing their name. Model how to form letters correctly and always start with a capital letter followed by lower case letters for the rest of their name. (Use the school Handwriting Policy to support you).
- Ask your child to identify 3D shapes around them. Encourage them to use boxes to make models at home.
- Use the 'Parent Packs' at home - see an adult in the setting!
- Help them to see that print is 'everywhere' and has a meaning.
- Make learning FUN and memorable!



Spring 1 2026

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

- Respond to simple instructions - making models, playing number games etc.
- Build up a wider range of vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences re space, day/night as well as story language.
- Use talk to organise themselves and their play - role-play space station, small world play related to space and aliens.
- Understand why questions e.g. Why do we go into space? Why do we not float on Earth like in Space?
- Sing a large repertoire of songs including 5 little men in a flying saucer.
- Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story e.g. How to Catch a Star and The Way Back Home.

LITERACY

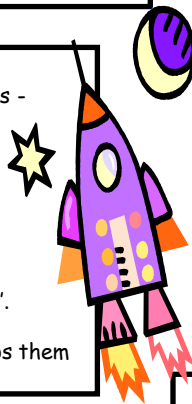
- Understand the five key concepts about print: - print has meaning - print can have different purposes - we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom - the names of the different parts of a book - page sequencing as well as looking at different types of books - fiction and non-fiction .
- Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: - spot and suggest rhymes - count or clap syllables in a word - recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother. Sing a range of rhymes related to Space and aliens including 'Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon'.
- Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary related to the topic of Space, including book 'Here come the Aliens'.
- Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a poster about aliens, writing 'a' for alien.
- Write some or all of their name.
- Write some letters accurately.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas - especially during small world and in role-play areas.
- Find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. For example, accepting that not everyone can be an alien or astronaut and suggesting other ideas.
- Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important.
- Remember rules without needing an adult to remind them.
- Develop appropriate ways of being assertive.
- Talk with others to solve conflicts.
- Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.
- Understand gradually how others might be feeling.
- Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Use one-handed tools and equipment. For example, drawing aliens or space pictures or when painting.
 - Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.
 - Show a preference for a dominant hand.
 - Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, making rockets and spaceships with junk or construction kits.
- Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills.
- Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.
 - Be able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm.



Nursery:

This is a summary of our topic 'Fantasy' for this half term and an outline of what your child will be learning:

MATHEMATICS

- Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising').
- Recite numbers past 5 whilst counting aliens, planets or singing number rhymes e.g. Five little men in a flying saucer. Link numerals to amounts up to 5.
- Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5 whilst playing number games or solving simple problems.
- Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').
- Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals whilst counting or playing number games e.g. Space race, Crater hop..
- Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5 e.g. Pizza Planet activity.
- Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'.
- Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners', 'straight', 'flat', 'round' whilst creating pictures or models of spaceships or rockets.
- Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'
- Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity.
- Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for a building, a triangular prism for a roof etc.
- Talk about and identify the patterns around them. For example: stripes, dots, spots etc. on clothes. (Aliens love Underpants sorting activity).

UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

- Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials: sensory small world play involving aliens and space.
- Explore collections of materials with similar or different properties.
- Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary related to the topic Space as well as light and dark..
- Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history .. what they see in the night sky, visit from the planetarium.
- Show interest in different occupations especially astronauts, NASA scientists.
- Explore how things work e.g. interactive Whiteboard and a variety of simple software.
- Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things e.g. taking care of Planet Earth, re-cycling etc.
- Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

- Take part in simple pretend play .. role-play space station and small world rocket etc.
- Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like rockets, aliens and sensory materials.
- Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a rocket or planet.
- Explore different materials freely: to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make e.g. construction of models.
- Join different materials and explore different textures whilst creating junk model rockets and spaceships.
- Create closed shapes with continuous lines and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.
- Draw with increasing complexity and detail, e.g. an alien or a new planet, using their imagination.
- Use drawing to represent ideas e.g. aliens, rockets, the sky at night and the Solar System. .
- Explore colour and colour-mixing whilst painting pictures of aliens, space, planets, night sky etc.
- Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings when discussing the topic Space.
- Remember and sing entire songs related to aliens and space / planets/ solar system.