

# Foundation Stage News

May 19<sup>th</sup> 2023



## Blast off into Space!

It has been 'awe and wonder' in abundance in Reception this week as we have explored our topic of Space. The children were particularly fascinated by the videos recorded by astronauts Tim Peake and Chris Hadfield on the International Space Station – we have discovered that everyday activities such as eating, playing tennis, washing, brushing our teeth and sleeping have to be done differently in zero gravity (the information about using the toilet in space particularly captured the children's interest as you might imagine!) We used these videos to talk about, and compare, life on Earth and life in Space. Please click on the video links below to enjoy watching these clips again with your child. There are many more online if you are interested:



[Brushing your teeth in Space](#)



[Water in Space](#)



[Sleeping in Space](#)



[Space Ping Pong](#)

## Dreaming Big ...

We read a very inspiring true story about a little girl called Mae Jemison who dreamed of becoming an astronaut when she was older even though people told her she should "do something more sensible". At the end of the book, we discovered her dream came true! **"If you believe it, and work hard for it, anything is possible!"**

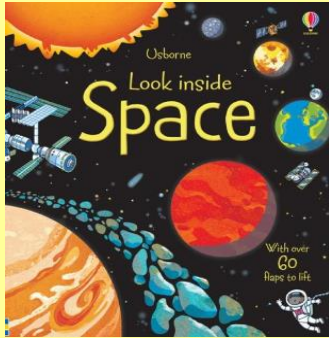


### Home learning idea:

Have a conversation with your child about what they would like to be when they are older.

# Books we shared this week

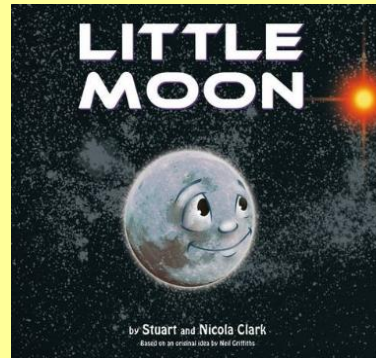
Below are the books we have shared this week. It is always good to revisit these books at home so that you can have conversations with your child about their experiences in school. If you do not have these books at home, you may be able to find them at your local library or often there are video versions by searching the title on YouTube.



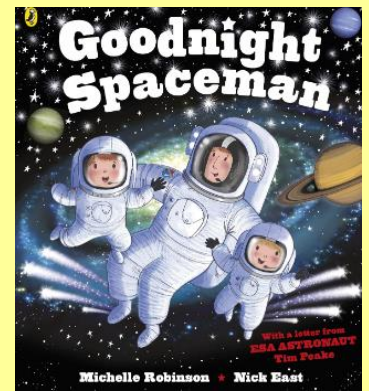
'Look inside Space'  
by Usborne Books



'Mae Among the Stars'  
by Roda Ahmed



'Little Moon'  
by Stuart and Nicola Clark

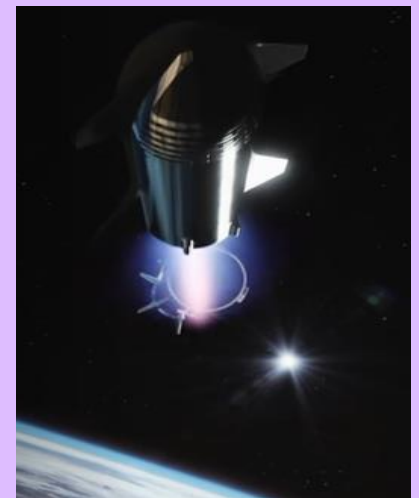


'Goodnight Spaceman'  
by Michelle Robinson

## Space themed Mathematics

After watching an animation of a rocket launching into space, the children learned that space rockets break into 2 parts with one part returning to Earth whilst the other continues in orbit.

To see this animation, please click on the following link...the children absolutely loved it! [Rocket Launch](#)



## Ways to make 7

Earlier this year, the children began to learn about the **composition** of a number. They learned that a '**whole**' number can be made up from different **parts** e.g. that 2 and 3 are **parts** of the **whole** number 5. Their challenge this week was to explore the parts that make the whole number 7. The rocket on their launch pad had 7 bricks. As it blasted into space it broke into 2 parts. Using a sentence stem, they explained their finding e.g. "4 is a part, and 3 is a part and my whole number is 7".

# Shapes in Space

The children created super space pictures using 2D shapes this week. They noticed that some shapes “tessellate” by fitting closely together without leaving gaps whilst other shapes do not.



Looking at our Globe, the children noticed it was similar to a circle explaining it was “round” and didn’t have any “corners”. This led to a discussion about 3D shapes. We went on a ‘sphere hunt’ and had great fun watching as they rolled away from us... we said the rhyme “Come here Sphere”!

Dipping for spheres in our glittery space pool.



# Space writing!

Every morning, on arrival to school, the children enjoy a writing challenge. We are encouraging them to practise writing simple sentences using ‘Fred Fingers’ to spell the words they wish to write. They are working hard to remember to leave spaces between their words so that other people can read their writing. It is so exciting to see the children begin to do this with greater independence now. Please do encourage your child to practise this skill at home. You could give them an exciting purpose for writing e.g. a message to a relative, a caption for a model they build, a sign for their bedroom door.



# An Orchard Adventure

On Friday the weather was so beautiful that we spent much of the day learning outdoors. The children spent the morning exploring the delights of our school orchard. They demonstrated how very grown up they are becoming by working together, sharing and taking turns without needing our support as they engaged with this environment. We were so impressed by the wonderful respect they showed for the living plants and creatures as they played and learned.



# Celebrating children's learning

On Wednesday, we celebrated National Numeracy Day in school. The children thought about how and when they use and apply number in their daily lives. Oliver, this week you are our superstar! We loved how you remembered that each week we have to carefully count our tokens to see who has earned a privilege in school.

What a great Think-a-docus you are. We loved your super picture of token counting too!



# Home learning fun



Chase was excited to share his creative play with us. Chase, we love how you have found objects at home to decorate your trampoline with.



Isabella used the wooden letters from her puzzle to make words. She remembered the Special Friend 'air' as she spelt words to describe the weather! Isabella, we hear you have also earned a 'special privilege' (feeding baby lambs) for collecting your tokens at home...wonderful!



Liam had a fab time at the Truck Show in Honiton, camping with his family. He met rescue birds, listened to live music, rode on bumper cars and made his family super proud by joining in with camp duties. What a responsible boy you are Liam!

# Read Write Inc. home learning:



Please click on the links below to keep practising the following Special Friends sounds:

[ay ee igh review lesson 1](#)

[ow oo oo review lesson 1](#)

Links to spelling practise using Special Friends sounds:

[Spelling at home - igh](#)

[Spelling at home - ow](#)

See you at Parent  
Consultations this week!  
Please let us know if you still  
need to book an appointment.