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Cleves Cross Primary and
Nursery School
Ferryhill
County Durham
DL17 8QY



Dear Parents/Carers,

Our topic this half term is 'Me and My Universe'. Within this topic we will find out about space and our local area.

As part of the topic we will also focus on the following:

Personal and Social Education

- SEAL topic- Relationships.
- We will continue to look closely at our feelings this half term and learn to express ourselves and to identify how others may be feeling.
- We will work on resolving conflicts by communicating with one another particularly if we think something is unfair.

Literacy:

We will continue our phonics, reading and writing programmes, but some opportunities link to our topic:

- We will read 'The Blue Balloon', a story in which a boy is transported to space when he finds a balloon, and write our own versions.
- We will write about our Easter holidays.
- We will read non-fiction books and websites in order to find out about wild boars linked to the local story.
- We will create our own class stories and come together to act these stories out.

Maths

Our maths this term covers the following. Talking about these concepts with your children, as the need to arises, is the best way to support your children as it provides them with real-life, relevant experiences of their learning.

- Numbers to 10- recognition, comparison and combining.
- We will continue to revisit finding one more and one less than numbers, counting on and back within 10 and simple additions and subtractions. We will begin to learn our number bonds to 10 i.e. what we have to add to numbers to make numbers to 10 e.g. 3 and 4 are bonds for 7 and 9 and 1 are bonds for 10.
- 3D shapes
- Patterns

Understanding the World

- Exploring and experiencing Spring.
- Finding out about space.
- Investigating rocket launches.
- We will continue to explore and investigate growth in our garden area.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Space activities to develop our creativity and skill.
- Colour mixing with powder paints and investigating different textures and tones.
- Designing and making rockets to launch.
- Pictures in the style of Van Gough's 'Starry Night'.
- Exploring instruments and learning rhymes.

Physical Development

As well as following our P.E. programme, we will:

- Continue to develop fine motor skills and pencil grip.
- Develop gross motor skills.
- Health and hygiene- I wonder how astronauts stay healthy? How do they stay clean? What do astronauts eat? Can we suggest healthy food to take to space?





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In the Foundation Stage we follow children's interests, so it may be that some of these activities do not get completed and we follow the lead of the children into a different aspect of the topic.



As part of our curriculum, we will take part in P.E. on a Wednesday morning. P.E. kits must be in school on a Monday and they will be sent home for washing towards the end of the week. For safety purposes, please ensure earrings are removed on P.E. days. Please ensure that your child's kit and uniform are labelled to support them with the independence when dressing. **As the weather improves (hopefully) we will begin to have P.E. outside. Please ensure your child has a pair of plimsolls or trainers in their P.E. bag that they can wear outdoors.**

Reading books will continue to be sent home. Thank you for your ongoing support with this. **Please read regularly with your child and sign their diary so we know how they are getting on.** Repeat reading is hugely beneficial to children, so even if you have read it once, read it again - this will help your child to develop their understanding and also practise any words that they found tricky during the first read. It's great for increasing their confidence, understanding and fluency too. You may even spend one night just looking through the pictures and telling the story orally. Five minutes a day will make a huge difference! We will begin to send a school library book out on a weekly basis too. The children will have a designated time to choose a book that they would like to bring home for the week to enjoy. It will not be matched to their reading level and so we ask that you share it with them. Having the opportunity to listen to stories is very important and it is a lovely thing to enjoy together.

Please continue to send in any photos of any experiences that your child has at home via Tapestry. This supports me to assess the community strand of our curriculum and also provides a fantastic opportunity for your child to share their experiences and learning during our news time.

We now have all of the tools needed to open our woodwork shed to the children. The children will all be introduced to the tools and the safe use of them over the coming weeks. The area will be very demanding on our resources but luckily, the resources can be collected for free. We would really appreciate your support with this. Junk is treasure in the Early Years and we can make use of most things - buttons, ribbon, corks, bottle tops, beer tops, beads etc. If anyone has or knows of anyone who can provide offcuts of clean wood such as pine wood, we would be very grateful! We will ensure that this is all organised in a Covid-secure way.

As the summer approaches, we would also really appreciate it if you could send in a cap that your child can wear when playing outdoors. On hot days please apply sun cream to your children before school and send some in to school, which we can keep here, labelled with your child's name, that they can apply independently.

If you have any questions, concerns or you want to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continuing support,
Mrs Richardson, Miss Hodges, Miss Whales and Mrs Slater
Dates:

