Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely half term break. This week we have really enjoyed our learning about some seasonal celebrations. We've enjoyed reading about Diwali and are looking forward to celebrating it in November.
Thank you to families who have donated pumpkins – the children have been busy making their own pumpkin patch, carving and preparing ingredients to make pumpkin soup.

In Phonics we are moving onto our next set of sounds in Phase 2. I have attached these to this letter. Please practise them with your child as this will help them in our lessons. The children are beginning to learn some diagraphs - 'two letters, one sound'. We read and write some CVC words each day and have been practising their names daily.

Our reading practise groups continue with children bringing their new book home on Fridays. Please keep filling in the reading record each week.

Please see the attached overview of our learning this term. Alongside our learning about seasonal changes, we are beginning our 'Space' theme in our topic 'Journey to the Stars'. This week we have started learning about Earth and the other planets in our solar system

Many Thanks,
Miss Hargrove

Phase 2 grapheme information sheet — Autumn 2

Grapheme and mnemonic	Picture card	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase
 j	 jellyfish	Pucker your lips and show your teeth use your tongue as you say **j j j**	All the way down the jellyfish. Dot on its head.
 v	 volcano	Put your teeth against your bottom lip and make a buzzing **vvvvv vvvvv**	Down to the bottom of the volcano and back up to the top.
 w	 wave	Pucker your lips and keep them small as you say **w w w**	From the top of the wave to the bottom, up the wave, down the wave, then up again.
 x	 box	Mouth open, then push the **cs/x** sound through as you close your mouth **cs cs cs (x x x)**	Start at the top, then across to the bottom of the box. Start at the top, then across to the bottom of the box.
 y	 yoyo	Smile, tongue to the top of your mouth, say **y** without opening your mouth **yyy**	Down and round the yo-yo, then follow the string round.

 Z	 zebra	Show me your teeth and buzz the **z** sound **zzzzz zzzzz**	Zip across, zag down and across the zebra.

Grapheme and mnemonic	Picture card	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase Catchphrase
 qu	 queen	Pucker your mouth, then open it as you say **qu qu qu**	Round the queen's face, up to her crown, down her robe with a flick at the end. qu Quick, it's the queen!
 ch	 cherries	Pucker your lips and show your teeth; use your tongue as you say **ch ch ch**	ch Chew the cherries, children.
 sh	 shells	Show me your teeth and push the air out **shshshshsh shshshshsh**	sh Share the shells.
 th	 thumb	**Voiced:** Tongue on your teeth, teeth almost closed to make a 'buzzing' **th th th** **Unvoiced:** Tongue on your teeth; push the air out **th th th**	th Thumbs up, we're having fun.
 ng	 ring	Open your mouth a bit and then use your tongue at the back of your mouth to say **ng ng ng**	ng Bling on a ring.
 nk	 pink panda	Open your mouth a bit and then use your tongue at the back of your mouth to say **ngk ngk ngk**	nk I think I am pink.









EYFS, Term Advent 2
Journey to the Stars









Communication and Language

We will recite rhymes by heart. We will join in with repeated refrains and familiar stories. We will begin to orally retell stories using props. We will use vocabulary from stories in conversation i.e. talk about nocturnal animals and what this means. We will ask questions using what, where, when and why to find out information i.e. about the first Moon landing.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will continue to develop our sense of self as an individual. In circle times we will talk about our likes and interests. We will name our feelings and learn strategies of how we can manage them. We will talk about the diversity within our school and the wider community. We will celebrate these i.e. Diwali and Black History Month. We learn to follow directions and why rules are important. We will share ways we can be responsible.

Physical Development

We will develop spatial awareness and co-ordination through multi-instruction games. Children will demonstrate strength and balance when throwing and catching, dancing to music and moving with control around the floor.

We will use small tools such as cutlery, tweezers, pipettes and scissors to build our fine motor control. They will use a range of tools to draw model and paint. They will chop and peel vegetables for winter soup.

They will further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully; lining up and queuing, mealtimes, personal hygiene. On Thursday they have Gymnastics with Mr Mitchell.

RSHE

Children will learn about their emotional wellbeing. They will read stories about characters experiencing different feelings. They will learn about what feelings can look like in their bodies and what contributes to their feelings. They will also work on empathy and how to help others experiencing difficult feelings. They will learn that actions have consequences; that when we make mistakes, we should say sorry and ask for forgiveness.

Literacy

We are reading fiction and non-fiction books about Autumn and Space. We are naming characters and talking about key events in a story. We will use imaginative movement to retell and recreate scenes from familiar stories. We will begin to recall facts from non-fiction. We will be able to write our name without a card. We will learn to write simple labels and lists to communicate meaning.

Phonics

For this half term, EYFS will be learning the Phase 2 graphemes ff, ll, ss, j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, nk.

They will learn the tricky words 'put, pull, full, as, and, has, his, her, go, no, to, into, she, push, he, of, we, me be'.

They will learn to read words containing known digraphs. They will learn digraphs as 'two letters, one sound'. Rhyme time sessions continue to develop language.

Mathematics

Children learn to subitise the numbers 1 – 5. We count & compare numbers. We will learn about the 'one more/one less' relationship between consecutive numbers. We are learning to link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal value.

We learn to identify and name 2D shapes such as circle, triangles, squares and rectangles. We teach children to use positional language such as ' in', 'on', 'under ', 'over ', 'beside', 'between', 'in front of ', 'around', ' through' and 'behind'. Children also learn methods of measuring time using 'first', 'then', 'after', 'before', 'day', 'night', 'morning', 'afternoon', 'today' and 'tomorrow' to describe different events.

More at home?

- Share your child's home reading book with them.
- Practise their letter formation and tricky words in their reading pack.
- Read stories with your child regularly, ideally everyday, and discuss what happens in the book.
- Practise pencil grip with your child and forming the letters of their name.
- Practise cutlery skills at dinner times.
- Help children to master dressing skills with winter clothing i.e. zipping up coats, putting on hats, gloves and scarfs independently.
- Consider a visit to the National Space Centre as a family.

Expressive Arts & Design

We will look at natural art collage. Using stories such as 'Leaf Man' and artists such as Andy Goldsworthy as inspiration. We explore the colours we might see in different seasons. We use modelling techniques such as paper mache and junk modelling to design and build our own rockets and planets. We are singing and performing in preparation for our Class Nativity.

Talk about: What pictures and patterns can we create using things we find in nature?

Understanding of the World

We will talk about some seasonal celebrations and how people and communities around the world celebrate them .i.e. Diwali, Bonfire night and Christmas. We will observe changes to the environment in Autumn and learn about some local nocturnal animals.

We will read books and look at information to learn about the history of Space Travel. We will look at some explorers from the past such as Neil Armstrong & Yuri Gagarin.

Talk about: I wonder what astronauts need to take to space and why?

Religious Education

In the Prophecy and Promise unit, we explore the Christmas story. The children learn about Mary and how she was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother.

They learn that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable and that Shepherds came to visit. They learn that Jesus came to the world for everyone!

They take part in some Christian traditions to get ready for Jesus' birthday. They learn they Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for Jesus and Christmas.

Talk about: How do we prepare for Christmas?

Big Question

How can exploring God's amazing universe help me wonder about His creation?