Topic Overview– Earth and Beyond

Year 1 and 2– Autumn 2 2025

Experience:

Planetarium in our school hall to explore Earth and beyond.

End Point:

A display gallery of artwork inspired by Van Gogh's The Starry Night.

Start Point:

Carousel day about Earth and why it is a special planet

Experience:

Children will take part in an astronaut training camp– what skills do astronauts need to develop?

YEAR 2 English

NON-FICTION– 1 Week

Retrieving information from a text

Writing an information booklet about Earth

NON-FICTION– 1 week

Retrieving information from a text

Writing a biography

FICTION– 2 weeks

Exploring characters and events, developing inference skills

Writing in role

FICTION– 2 weeks

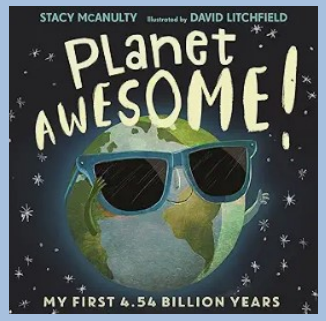
Exploring characters, developing inference skills

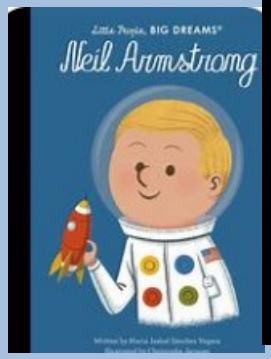
Writing the story from a character's perspective

FICTION– 1 week

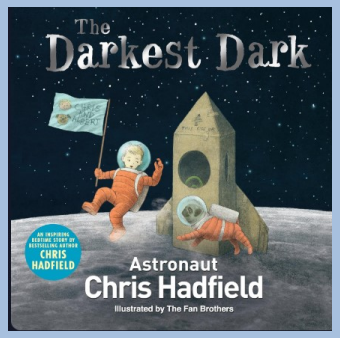
Developing inference skills

Retelling a story

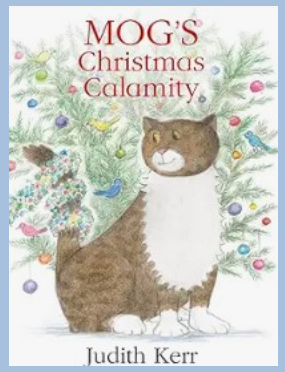












YEAR 1 English

NON-FICTION– 1 week

Retrieving information from a text

Children will create a poster about Earth

NON-FICTION– 1 week

Retrieving information from a text

Writing a fact file about Neil Armstrong

FICTION– 1 week

Making inferences about characters and events

Writing simple sentences

FICTION– 1 week

Making inferences about characters and events

Writing simple sentences

FICTION– 1 week

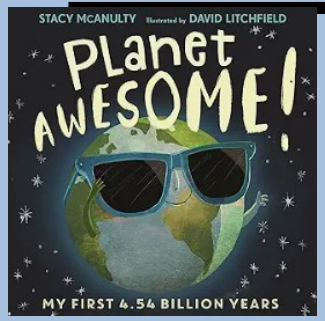
Making inferences about characters and events

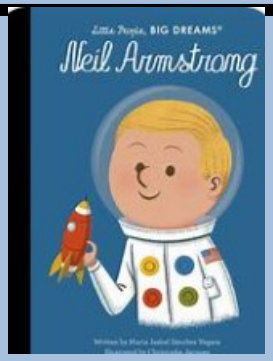
Writing simple sentences

FICTION– 1 week

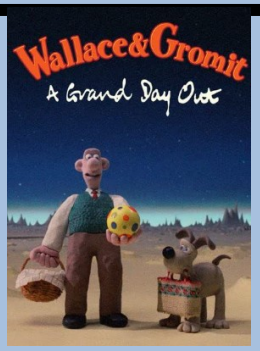
Developing inference skills

Retelling a story

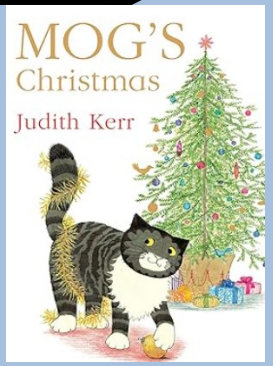












Science– Children will be developing knowledge of plants and conditions for plant growth

Year 2: Children will understand the term macrohabitat and name different macro-habitats from around the world.

Year 1: Children will learn about a range of weather types

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Year 2: Children will research the main features of various macrohabitats including deserts, forests and jungles.

Year 1: How does the sun affect the seasons?

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Scientific Enquiry:

Year 2: Children will compare the similarities and differences between different macrohabitats

Year 1: What is the weather like throughout the year in different seasons?

Art: In the Dark of Night

Year 2: Compare and contrast the works of Van Gogh (The Starry Night) and Edvard Munch (Starry Night). Children will learn about the techniques they used to create their work.

Year 1: Children will discuss their likes and dislikes when looking at the works of Van Gogh (The Starry Night) and Edvard Munch (Starry Night).

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Children will learn to use a dark wash to cre-ate a night sky background. They will then use contrasting colours to create the effect of light in their painting.

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Year 2: Children will use the wash and misting techniques to create their own night sky scene

Year 1: Children will use the wash technique to create a painting

History: Children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of key historical events and figures

Year 2: Children will research the lives of Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison.

Year 1: Who was Neil Armstrong? Children will research his life.

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Year 2: Children will compare the similarities and differences between Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison.

Year 1: Children will place key events in the life of Neil Armstrong on a timeline

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Year 2: Children will create a group presentation to demonstrate their knowledge

Year 1: Children will create a poster with key facts that they have learnt about Neil Armstrong

Year 2 Computing: Children will be developing knowledge and skills in computing networks and systems

Children will identify how technology can help us in our everyday lives.

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Children will use websites to research the lives of Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison.

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Children will present their research in a poster format. They will discuss how IT sources can be beneficial when conducting research, as well as the care they must take when researching online.

Year 1 Computing: Children will be developing knowledge and skills in creating media– digital painting

Children will explore the digital tools available to them to create digital art.

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Children will choose appropriate tools to create a digital collage of the night sky.

PSHE– SCARF unit Valuing Difference

See separate unit plans

RE: Year 1– Why do we give gifts to others? Children will explore this question through Christianity and Islam.

Year 2– What does the Nativity story teach Christians about Jesus?