

Year 5 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the first six weeks: Space Explorers – Earth and Beyond

This covers the first six weeks of the autumn term (2nd September – 9th October). During this time, Year 5 will be exploring **Space Explorers – Earth and Beyond** — discovering how the Earth, Sun and Moon move through space, and how the Space Race connected the world through satellite communication. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Connected**.

Our CARE Curriculum

Space Explorers is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 5, 'Connected' means understanding how astronauts and satellites connect people and places across the world — laying the foundations for the connected world we live in today.

Our School Value: BRAVE

We'll start by reading *Little People, BIG DREAMS*: Dwayne Johnson as a class. Dwayne overcame setbacks and hardship — including being cut from professional football — through determination and bravery, going on to inspire audiences right across the world. This links to our school value of being BRAVE, and to this unit's theme: just as astronauts and engineers of the Space Race pursued a seemingly impossible dream together, a big dream pursued bravely can connect and inspire people everywhere.

Science and History this half term

We're learning about the Sun, Earth and Moon, and the history of space exploration:

- How the Earth and other planets move around the Sun
- How we see the Moon from Earth, and why it seems to change shape
- Why the Sun, Earth and Moon are all spherical, and why day and night happen
- The history of the Space Race, famous astronauts, and satellite communication

At home, you could use a torch and a ball on a clear evening to model how the Earth, Sun and Moon move together.

Maths this half term

We're building on number confidence with larger numbers:

- Weeks 1–3: Place Value — reading, writing and recognising numbers up to 1,000,000, and rounding within 100,000
- Weeks 4–6: Addition and Subtraction — adding and subtracting two 4-digit numbers, using inverse operations, and solving multistep addition and subtraction problems

At home, you could practise reading large numbers together from things like odometers, populations, or prices.

Music this half term: learning to play the guitar with Mr Dunn (Gateshead Music Service)

RE this half term: Jews — how does remembering maintain Jewish identity? Studying the festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Purim and Chanukah, and the stories connected to them.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "Why does the Moon seem to change shape throughout the month?"
- Ask: "Why do we have day and night?"
- Ask: "How do astronauts stay connected to Earth while in space?"
- Ask: "What do you think made Dwayne Johnson brave?"
- Try together: on a clear evening, look for the Moon and sketch its shape — compare it a week later!

Words you might hear at home

Solar System, orbit, axis, satellite, astronaut, combine, evaluate, investigate, predict

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers adult relationships, why our special people are important, community rules, personal boundaries, and peer pressure. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 5.

[Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

Enrichment

- A day trip to Centre for Life, Newcastle — Wednesday 7th October
- A NASA Space virtual workshop — Artemis Engineer

Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

Keep in touch

This overview covers the first six weeks of the term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

Thank you for your continued support.



Find your Remarkable



Brave

