

Prime Learning Challenge:

What would be needed to plan a mission to Mars?

Introduction

As Scientists, children will investigate and discover the wonders of Space. Children will discover how planets and stars combine to make up our Solar System. To excite children's curiosity, they will virtually travel across the Solar System via a 3D Planetarium, engaging in a detailed presentation. The children will also find out what it takes to become an astronaut. To conclude the theme, the children will design and create toy space buggies suitable for younger children.



Mission to Mars

Learning Objective

To begin their exploration, the children will design a survival kit for a landing on Mars and consider the reasons why certain items should or should not be taken. As **historians**, the children will begin to gather an understanding of what life was/is like for astronauts during the history of Space exploration. As **scientists**, they will explore what makes day and night and understand the Earth's movement in Space. They will also investigate the movement of the sun across the sky and how this affects shadows. To further inspire their learning, as **mathematicians**, they will work in groups to create a large scaled version of the Solar System on the field. As **design technologists**, the children will design, make and evaluate a toy Space buggy that could travel across the rough surface of Mars. As **writers**, the children will be inspired by the story 'Sea of Tranquility' by Mark Haddon to write their own story.

In other areas of the curriculum the children will be working on weight (with relation to different gravitational forces) and the distance of planets from the Sun in Maths. In Music, the children will develop their composing and lyric writing skills.