

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPACE – TOPIC OVERVIEW

YEAR R: SPRING 1

COVERAGE:

Based on the book 'Professor Astro Cat's Solar System'

Professor Astro Cat takes us all on a tour of our solar system: (Power point of the book): -

- How the solar system began as a giant cloud of dust and gas and slowly joined to make the sun and the eight planets
- How the planets orbit the Sun and how the Sun is our star – how the Sun gives light. Sun safety – never look at the Sun directly, sunglasses. Why the sun not only gives us light but life.
- All about the planets – and their individual characteristics: - (in distance from the sun)
- Mercury, Venus,
- The Earth (and moon) day and night
- Mars, Asteroids and Comets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
- Observing space – looking beyond our solar system to the stars.
- What are stars? – how we can observe the universe using telescopes (Professor Astro Cat refers to the Hubble Space Telescope)

KEY LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY:

Solar System

Sun

Planets

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

atmosphere

craters

orbit

asteroid

comet

Moon

Star

day and night

space probe

telescope

extra-terrestrial life

sunglasses

KNOWLEDGE AND FACT SHEET

Topic Fact Sheet-Space

Key Terms	Definition
Solar system	The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun.
Star	The star at the centre of the Solar System which gives out light and heat.
planet	A large mass of rock or gas that orbits a star.
orbit	The oval shaped movement of a planet or moon around a star or another planet.
atmosphere	The blanket of gases around a planet.
crater	A large hole caused by an object crashing into the surface of a planet.
asteroid	A large chunk of rock that orbits around the sun.
comet	A comet is an object that travels around the sun leaving a bright trail behind it.
moon	An object that orbits a planet.

Topic Fact Sheet-Space

Key Terms	Definition
extra-terrestrial life	The correct term for aliens, living things that exist somewhere other than Earth. Scientists have not found evidence of any yet.
day	The part of a day when it is light.
night	The time when no sunlight is visible.
space probe	A spacecraft for exploring space and other planets. It is controlled by computers back on Earth.
telescope	Telescopes help us to see things very far away in space. The Hubble space telescope is the most famous.
sunglasses	Glasses to protect the eyes from sunlight.
safety	Protection from danger, injury or risk.

Key Questions:

1. What are planets?
2. Is the Earth a planet?
3. Can you name other planets?
4. What do the planets orbit (or go around)?
5. Why is the Sun so important?
6. What orbits the Earth?
7. The sun, planets and moons all form part of?
8. What can we use to observe space beyond the Solar System?
9. What do we call space beyond our Solar System?
10. Why should we never look directly at the sun without sunglasses?

KEY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- I understand that I live on a planet called the Earth
- I know that the Earth is one of eight planets
- I know that our moon orbits. (goes around) the Earth
- I know the names of the other planets
- I know that the planets are all different
- I know that the Sun is at the centre of our Solar System and that the planets orbit the Sun
- I understand that the Sun gives us light and life
- I know that we should not look directly at the Sun because it is very bright and can hurt our eyes. The importance of sunglasses
- I know that there is a world beyond our solar system called the universe. We can observe the stars in the universe through telescopes.

ENRICHMENT: