

Reception – Summer 1 –Rockets, Robots and Reinventions

Quick Summary



How do we make it? What can we invent?

This half term, our Woodshop will be opening, giving the children the exciting opportunity to learn practical skills such as sawing, drilling, filing and safely using a hot glue gun. They will plan, create and review their own designs before proudly bringing their finished wooden project home. We are delighted to invite parents and carers to join us for a special session, working alongside your child to make a wooden robot together.

We will also be opening our Inventor's Shed, where the children will use their junk-modelling skills to design and build imaginative inventions that help solve a problem. Through the story of No-Bot the Robot, who has lost his bottom, the children will work creatively to design and build a brand-new one for him!

Prior Learning

- The children have developed a range of art and design skills. However, this will be the first half term where these skills are practically applied through junk modelling and woodworking.
- The children have become familiar with a range of different texts and this half term are given the opportunity to create their own stories using the story language and vocabulary that they have learnt.

Key Vocabulary

- Invention
- Design
- Teamwork
- Imagination
- Construct

Key Take-Aways / Knowledge

We build up our knowledge and skills each week to create a product we are proud of in the 'woodshop' area. We introduce the concept of planning a product, working on it and reviewing it once it has been made. The children are exposed to different gadgets and get to experience using them for their purpose.

Reception – Summer 1 –Rockets, Robots and Reinventions

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
				
<p>As we start our gadgets and gizmos topic, we use this beautiful picture book as a springboard to talk about making things, building things and construction in our everyday lives. We introduce the children to the names of the tools you might find in a toolbox and how to safely use them when in our classroom woodshed. This half term we will use our skills and techniques to make rockets, robots and cars when in the woodshed.</p>	<p>Our book of the week is a lively, rhyming journey through the history of human inventions, from early tools made of rocks and stones to modern creations like medicines and mobile phones. The book highlights how everyday materials—such as wood, clay, glass, and metals—have been transformed into world-changing innovations, showing children how one idea often leads to another. Throughout the week, the children will be introduced to local inventor’s and challenged to create an invention inspired by their creations.</p>	<p>This week we use the book Izzy Gizmo to inspire our learning. We use our curiosity table and loose parts exploration this week to ask open ended questions about gadgets and gizmos and their functions. We allow children lots of time for exploration of the objects and interject with challenges to move their enquiries further. It is important to us that the children begin to value mistakes and failure and know that for some things to work, we will need to try over and over again.</p>	<p>Our robot week focusses on No-bot and his friends who work together to solve his problem. We revisit our core values of determination and teamwork this week and look at how collaboration on our construction and junk modelling projects will help us achieve more.</p> <p>This week we invite you into school to come and work with us on the techniques and skills we have been developing to build our own wooden robot which we can take home.</p>	<p>This book centres on vehicles and this week we use real car parts for investigative play, looking at how they work and what they could be for. The children build their own vehicles using large construction and plan, design and build a rocket for the characters in the book. This encourages lots of mathematical and scientific thinking from the children and lots of writing for a purpose.</p>

Reception – Summer 1 –Rockets, Robots and Reinventions

Communication and Language

Engage in non-fiction books.

Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

Learn new vocabulary.

Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them.

Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.

Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities explain how things work and why they might happen.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

See themselves as a valuable individual.

Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.

Manage their own needs.

Literacy

Form lower-case and capital letters correctly.

Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.

Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.

Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.

Mathematics

Compare length, weight, and capacity.

Count beyond ten.

Compare numbers.

Understand the one more than/less than relationship between consecutive numbers.

Explore the composition of numbers to ten.

Expressive Art and Design

Create collaboratively sharing ideas, resources, and skills.

Listen attentively, move to, and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses.

Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses.

Sing in group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.

Explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

Understanding the World

Comment on images of familiar situations in the past.

Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.

Recognize some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.

Recognize some environments that are different to the one in which they live.

Physical Development

Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing

Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely, and confidently.

Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.

Further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully

Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.