

Year: 5

Term: Autumn 1

Topic: Physics - Earth and Space

St Dennis Primary Academy

"Everyone matters, everyone succeeds, every moment counts"



All the **planets** in our solar system orbit the Sun on an elliptical path. The Sun is at the centre of our solar system. Each planet takes a different amount of time to orbit the Sun, depending on how far away it is and how slowly it moves. The Sun's gravitational pull keeps all the planets in orbit.



The Earth constantly spins on an axis. It takes 24 hours for the Earth to completely spin.

When the UK is facing the Sun, it is daytime. When the UK is facing away from the Sun, it is night time.



People used to think the Earth was flat! Around 350 BCE, a scientist named **Aristotle** proved it was a **sphere**.

Glossary

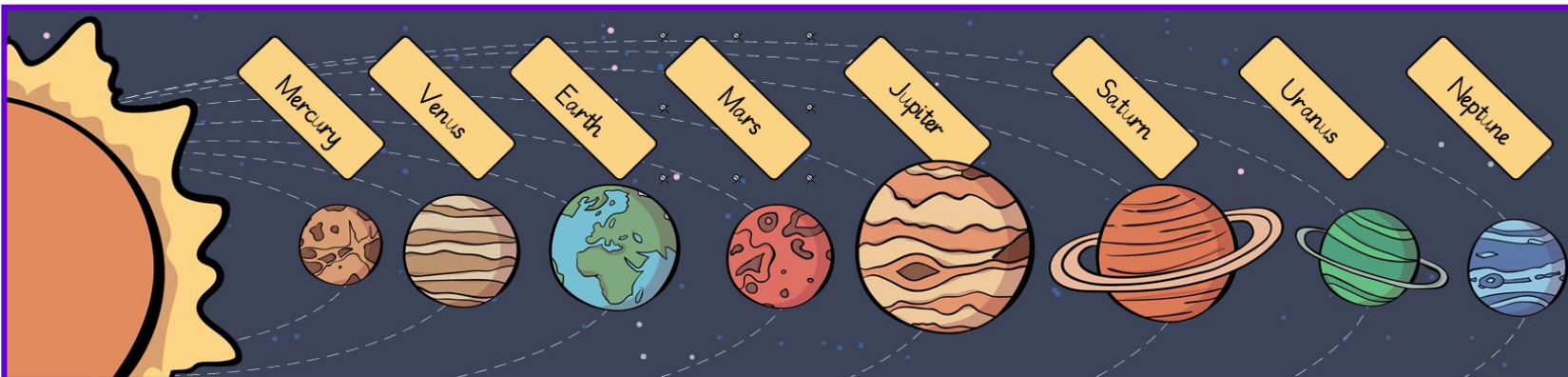
axis	An imaginary line about which a body rotates.
day	A twenty-four hour period, corresponding to a rotation of the earth on its axis.
gravity	The force of attraction between two masses.
month	The length of time the Moon takes to complete one orbit around the Earth (not exactly equal to a calendar month).
orbit	The regularly repeated oval course of a celestial object around a star or planet.
planet	A celestial body moving in orbit around a star.
solar system	The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit around the Sun.
year	The period the Earth takes to complete one orbit of the Sun.

The **Moon** orbits the Earth.

The Moon is not a planet.

It takes just over 27 days for the Moon to orbit the Earth.

The Moon does not produce its own light; what we see is the Moon reflecting light from the Sun.



There used to be 9 planets in our solar system. There was a planet called Pluto that was even further away than Neptune. Pluto used to be a planet until scientists deemed it 'too small' as some other planets' moons were bigger than it. It is now categorised as a **dwarf planet** instead.