**Astronomical Terms**

**Celestial** – an adjective to describe anything related to, or in the sky or outer space

**Equator** – an imaginary line drawn on the Earth (or any other planet or almost spherical body) that is half way between the north pole and the south pole. The equator divides the Earth into northern and southern hemispheres.

**Poles** – Either of the two areas on the surface of the Earth (or any celestial body) which are at the northern, or southern ends of the axis of rotation.

**Circumpolar** – An adjective to describe a star, that when viewed from a specific point on Earth, never sets below the horizon.

**Space probe** – an unmanned exploratory space craft, that discovers information about its new environment and transmits them back to Earth

**Satellite** – an object that orbits the Earth or another planet. An example of a natural satellite is the moon. Artificial satellites are placed in orbit around the Earth to collect information or to allow communication.

**Space station** –a large artificial satellite that is used as a long-term base for manned missions in space. An example is The International Space Station (ISS). It can be seen with the naked eye from Earth!

**Space telescope** – A space telescope or a space observatory is an instrument (or set of instruments) sent to outer space to observe distant galaxies, planets, stars and other celestial bodies. Two examples of space telescopes are the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space telescope.

**Space shuttle** – A space craft launched by a rocket, designed to transport people and cargo between Earth and Space. Some parts are reusable, and could make repeated journeys between Earth and Space

**Rocket** – A rocket is a vehicle that uses rocket engines. They need fuel to make the rocket move forward. A rocket engine (unlike a jet engine) doesn’t need oxygen from the air to work and so a rocket engine can work in space.

**Rover** – A space exploration vehicle designed to move across the surface of a planet or celestial body. Some are completely automated, some carry humans. Some are fitted with instruments to find out about their new environment and send the information back to Earth.