

**Key Vocabulary**

**Asteroid – A small rocky body orbiting the sun**

**Axis – An imaginary line about which a body rotates**

**Celestial – Positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in the astronomy**

**Day – A twenty-four hour period, from one midnight to the next, corresponding to a rotation of the earth on its axis**

**Dwarf planet – A celestial body resembling a small planet but lacking certain technical criteria to be classed as a planet e.g. Pluto**

**Geocentric – Where people believed the earth was at the centre of the solar system**

**Heliocentric – Representing the sun as the centre of the solar system, the modern view of the solar system**

**Moon – A natural satellite of any planet**

**Night – The period from sunset to sunrise in each twenty-four hours**

**Orbit – The regularly repeated oval course of a celestial object around a star or planet**

**Planet – A celestial body moving in orbit round a star**

**Rotation – The action of rotating about an axis or centre**

**Solar system – The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun**

**Star – A fixed luminous point in the night sky which is a large, remote body like the sun**

**Sun – The star round which planets orbit**

**Earth and Space**