



Happy New Year!

It is very exciting to welcome our Penguins back to school this week. We hope that you have had a lovely Christmas break which has given you the opportunity to recharge, refresh and spend time with family and friends.

This half term is all set to be exciting, fun and jam packed with adventures and learning!

Our new topic is called 'Amazing Animals'. Firstly, we will be learning about penguins, then owls and finally dinosaurs. We have exciting books to read, science activities to carry out and lots of art and craft opportunities planned for the next few weeks.

Understanding the World – We will collect dinosaur facts to create our very own class non-fiction book. We will learn about fossils and make our own. We will learn about Mary Anning and talk about habitats.

Our science work will be revisiting sinking and floating before moving on to freezing and melting (watch out for frozen puddles this week!)

We will continue our learning of the seasons and use our senses to spot signs of Winter and Spring.

Physical Development – Our PE this term will focus on rolling, throwing, catching, hopping, skipping and climbing. We will also take part in dance sessions where we will move in time to music and express ourselves to the different music played. The children have also asked to do Squiggle whilst you wiggle using scarves and music.

As part of our role play, we will talk about new years resolutions and our home corner will have exercise mats and activities for the children to carry out in our outdoor shed.

We will be having a big drive on the children using scissors and also using their knife and fork independently.

RE – Our focus in RE is to learn about our neighbours, people who help us, how we can help others and that we are all equal. We will explore the Sikh belief that God created people to treat others fairly. We will look at acts of kindness and the importance of the Langar meal. We will be baking as part of our RE work.

We will be outdoors using our creative skills as we learn about Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon, Saturday 10th February)

PSHE – The penguins will be able to share their hopes and dreams. We will set ourselves goals and use kind words to encourage our friends. We will look at people who help us and the children will be asked to share the job of someone in their family. What job do they do? What did they have to work hard at to get this job? Do they work in the day or the night?

Expressive Art and Design – The penguins will be learning new songs and poems during their 'Amazing Animals' topic. Some will be linked to animals whilst others will be linked to their maths work and the weather.

The penguins will be exploring using different paints and mixing their own colours. They will use oil pastels and watercolours. They will use clay and also create models.

Maths – In maths we will be looking at the concept zero, none or nothing. We will be counting on as well as counting back. We will take part in games using a dice to recognise the patterns without having to count the dots. We will continue to look at how numbers are made up of other numbers and work on our number bonds and doubles.

Phonics – In Phonics we have now moved on to the next stage. We will be building and also breaking down CCVC and CVCC words (for example - sleep & boost) We have a new set of Rainbow words which will be stuck in the reading record book this week. Please continue to revisit your phonics wallet. We will also recap these daily.

Reading - Reading books will continue to be changed weekly. The reading book should come into school each day completed with a signature and comment. **Please continue to read daily.** This helps the children to practice the new words and sounds that we learn in class.

During reading we are asking the children questions about their books – what do you think will happen at the end? Who is your favourite character and why? Why do you think that happened in the story?

Literacy – During our new topic we will be creating story maps and a class scrapbook. The children will be encouraged to discuss exciting describing words as well as learn actions to words during our stories.

The children will take part in daily writing activities during their play as well as in small working groups. The children will be encouraged to use their handwriting with swooshes and flicks.

The children will retell our stories using story maps, puppets and the story sacks provided. We will also create our very own dark wood story area where we will need torches to read when we visit our 'Owl Babies'.

Housekeeping

- Please ensure that your child has their coat, gloves and hat every day (**named please**)
- We do go outside every day and we definitely will be running outside if the snow comes! If you took wellies home, please send them back as the children cannot go on the field or in the sand pit without these. (We will check that wellies still fit the children this week)
- Water bottle needed every day – no juice.
- Please send a fruit snack daily if the children are not having toast.
- Book bags to be returned daily with reading books – books changed each week. We will test book changing this week and inform you if the day will remain the same or change.
- No toys to be brought in please – during sharing time the children can share a picture, a photograph, a ticket or a leaflet.

Messages – If you have an urgent message to pass on please do this in a morning, however as we are trying to help the children to come into school as confidently, calmly and independently as possible please see staff at the end of the day if needed.

Blog – We will continue to share pictures and pass on information through our class blog. We hope you enjoy sharing these pictures with your child (great for when the penguins tell you they have nothing today!!!)

Thank you for your continuous help and support.