



January 2022 - Class 2 Spring Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year. I hope you all enjoyed the winter break and managed to stay fit and well.

Our topic for this term is 'Freezing Cold', focusing on the Polar Regions of the Arctic and Antarctic.

In History, we will be looking at what it means to be an explorer, through studying the experiences and challenges faced by the famous polar explorers Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton. We will develop our historical understanding and skills by comparing the equipment they used to the modern-day versions, developing our historical vocabulary and looking at a timeline of events. We will also be considering how these explorers have contributed to national achievements.

In Science, we will be identifying animals found in cold places and will be looking at their features by classifying them into different groups e.g. mammals, birds, fish, reptiles etc. We will identify and name some animals found in cold places that are herbivores, carnivores or omnivores and find out what they eat. We will be doing an investigation to discover what materials would be best to keep our hands warm and dry when visiting cold places.

In Geography, we will be exploring what it is like in hot and cold areas of the world and identifying where they are located on globes and maps. We will use geographical vocabulary to describe key features and use compass directions and locational language to position objects and describe features on a map.

In Art, will be drawing and painting polar animals and exploring colour mixing, with the view of using this to create a Northern lights winter scene.

In Design and Technology, we will be developing textiles skills to create stuffed polar animals and developing simple sewing skills.

In Music, we will be using our voices and percussion instruments to perform songs and imitate the sounds created by the different seasons and weather.

In computing, we will be developing our computer skills including turning a computer off and on correctly, using a mouse and different computer applications.

In Religious Education, we will be learning about Jesus' early life and how we can be a gift to others around us by following Jesus example of being kind and caring. We will also look at Bible stories that help us understand what Jesus taught about us.

In PHSE, we will be learning how rules can keep us safe, why some things, have age restrictions, e.g. TV and film, games, toys or play areas, as well as how to stay safe online. We will also be learning about what we can do if we see something that worries or upsets us.

Math's (numeracy) and phonics will be taught daily, for all children.

Reading books will be given to reception and year 1 children. Reading and sharing books is a great way to spend time together, be it cuddled up on a sofa, sat at a kitchen table or a bedtime story all tucked up and cosy. Reading is also an essential skill that will support your child across all

areas of the curriculum. Can I ask that you support us with developing both their reading skills and also a love of reading by listening to your child read on a regular basis.

Year 1 will continue to develop their writing style and grammatical understanding in line with Key Stage expectations. This term we will be reading contemporary fiction including *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers which will support children with their fiction writing. We will also be looking at non-fiction texts linked to our topic including books on the Antarctic and Arctic regions, and the animals that live there as well as using this as an opportunity to discover more about the polar explorers. We will also be looking at non-fiction texts in our writing as we write a report about Polar Bears and other polar animals. We will also be having another look at rhyming couplets linked to our topic.

PE will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons it is therefore important that all children have the appropriate PE kit (Shorts and t-shirt). The focus this term is gymnastics and games (travelling with control and travelling with a ball).

The children will be having weekly spelling and reading homework in the same format as last half term.

Many Thanks

Claire Arnold

carnold@dudleyhouseschool.co.uk