

Term 3:

I am sure we will be spending the first few days sharing our news about our Christmas holidays! We will be launching straight into our new topic which will be 'Winter Wonderland.' We will be exploring winter weather and cold climates, finding out about different polar animals and writing labels and captions to share the information. We will also be having more of a focus on pencil control and letter formation to help the children improve their writing skills. Please look at the attached overview for this term. We will be watching 'Happy Feet' over the first few days to launch the topic.

Show and Tell: Wednesdays

This term we are starting Show and Tell, every Wednesday, where the children can bring in something from home that is linked to our topic to show the rest of the class. This encourages the children to talk about their topic with you at home, and to talk in school in front of a group. This is purely optional; don't feel you have to bring things each week.

PE:

This term we will be having rugby sessions on Mondays with external coaches. We will start changing for PE this term, so the children will need a PE kit in school - dark joggers/shorts, a white t-shirt and trainers. Children with long hair must have it tied back on PE days, and no jewellery is to be worn.

Foundation

Mrs Ball and Mrs Dann

Reading:

Now that the Nativity is over we are back into routine! The children will bring home a guided reading book every week, alongside a school library book that is colour banded to support their level of reading. We hope that the children will enjoy sharing these with you and practise their reading skills at home. Please try to write in the reading record at least three times a week so we can see how the children are getting on at home. It is also important to keep reading to your child, as this way they can access books that are too hard for them to read, which encourages a love of reading and supports them learning new vocabulary.

We are running low on Guided Reading sets, as not all books have been returned. The children need to bring their books to school every day as the Guided Reading groups rotate through the week. Please have a look over the holidays to see if there are any school books at home so we can start the New Year with full sets! Thank you.

Home School books:

Thank you for writing in these every week - it is a valuable source of information. Now that the hectic festive period is over we will be going back to sending these home each week. Please ensure they are handed in on Thursdays.

Forest School

Forest school will continue to be on Thursday mornings, and it will re-start on **Thursday 4th January**. Please remember to send in hats/scarves /gloves during the colder weather so that the children are able to enjoy Forest School in any weather.

We will still need a volunteer to help with Forest School every week, so if you are able to help please sign up on the sheet in the class.

Encouraging independence:

Please remember to encourage your child to hang their coat up and put their bag away to support their independence.

Fine Motor Skills:

One of our areas to focus on this term is fine motor skills, supporting children's muscle development in their hands to help them in developing hand-eye coordination and pencil control for writing and mark making.

You can help at home by encouraging your child to try different activities to support this:

- * Playdough, cooking
- * lego or construction toys
- * doing buttons and zips
- * colouring/drawing/writing - mazes in comics are good for hesitant mark makers!
- * counting and moving coins, buttons etc
- * gardening/planting seeds
- * threading/sewing
- * hamma beads

Topic Overview: Foundation
Winter Wonderland

Classroom Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ice cave with polar animals 	Educational Visits	Library Visit
Wow Factor Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Happy Feet - cinema experience 	Key Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Non fiction about polar animals/seasons/winter ✓ Kingfisher polar animals ✓ 'Lost and found' Oliver Jeffers ✓ 'Solo' story sack
Outcomes /Open Day Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leaflets about polar animals ✓ Winter art 	Home links - activities parents can do to support...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Talk about the seasons and weather ✓ Talk about animals that live in cold climates ✓ Practise letter shapes - tracing, drawing on backs, writing in the air
Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listening to stories ✓ Sharing ideas ✓ Talking about their interests ✓ Sharing their own experiences 	Personal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Talk to others about own interests ✓ Take turns and negotiate with their peers ✓ Show consideration for others ✓ Talk about changes in our body when we exercise
Physical development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Using equipment safely (e.g. scissors, art resources) ✓ PE activities - rugby and dance ✓ Name writing - pencil control and letter formation - letter families. 	Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reciting and recognising numbers to 20. ✓ Adding two groups of objects. ✓ Taking away by moving objects and counting how many are left. ✓ Naming and describing shapes - 2D and 3D
Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sharing non-fiction texts ✓ Daily phonics sessions - learning new letters, practising blending and segmenting skills ✓ Writing and mark making - labels and captions ✓ Making a poster about polar animals ✓ Weekly Big Write activities linked to the topic 	Expressive art and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen to Vivaldi 'Four Seasons' and make own winter music ✓ Frosty pictures - using a range of resources ✓ Creating different textures in artwork ✓ Collaborative art - winter scenes.
Understanding the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Looking at different places on the globe ✓ Looking at seasonal changes, exploring ice and snow ✓ Making pictures on computer programs - Purple Mash. 		