



## Rabbit Class News



### Spring 1- Frozen Planet

Welcome back, we hope you had a great Christmas and New Year. This half term our topic is Frozen Planet. We're looking forward to finding out all about the Arctic and Antarctic, and the animals and people who live there.

#### Phonics

We are working on Phase 3 phonics this half term. We will be learning the following sounds, and reading and writing words containing them:

j, v, w, x, y, z, zz

ch, sh, th, ng

ai, ee, igh, oa, oo

ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear

Sounds containing two letters are called digraphs, and three letter sounds are called trigraphs. Your child will need lots of practice with these sounds, so keep up daily work on reading and writing them.

#### Maths

This half term we will be continuing to work on counting and number recognition, ensuring that all children are confident working with numbers to 20.

We will also be working on being able to recognise numbers in lots of different ways, for example seeing five in the following ways:

#### Communication, Language and Literacy

We will be focusing much of our learning throughout this topic on two books - *The Big Dark*, and *Lost and Found*. We will be increasing our vocabulary by finding out about the animals and places in these stories, and exploring them through talk, small world play and role play. We will be practising our writing by labelling animals, writing lists of what to pack for expeditions, and retelling stories.

#### Physical Development

In PE, we will be working on our ball control by practising throwing, catching, bouncing and kicking. Outdoors we will be working on our balance and coordination with obstacle courses.

We will be starting daily handwriting practice in our special handwriting workbooks, ensuring that we hold our pencils correctly and always warm up for our writing.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In our circle time sessions we will be focusing on *Saying No to Bullying* - by thinking and talking about similarities and differences between people, and how we should treat others.

We will also be continuing to reinforce our school values of kind words, helping hands, listening ears, smiles and good manners every day in everything that we do.

### Creative Development

This half term we will be practising our drawing skills, focusing on drawing polar animals by looking carefully at their shapes and details.

We will also be creating our own collages based on polar landscapes, thinking about colours and choosing materials carefully.

### Understanding the World

During this topic we'll be finding out about where the Arctic and Antarctic are, and what life is like for people and animals there. We will be trying to compare life in the Arctic with life in Sowerby Bridge. We will also be using the iPads and laptops to research polar animals, and to take our own photographs of small world animals in polar landscapes that we will create, and exploring ice.

### Reminders

Please make sure that your child has the following items in school with them every day:

- A waterproof coat
- Wellies (for outdoor learning)
- PE kit (shorts and a t-shirt)
- Book bag
- Spare clothes in case of an accident

We change books every Tuesday. If you would like your child to have their books changed more regularly, please let us know.

### I am so Proud and Learning Journeys

If your child does anything at all that makes you proud, please fill out an "I am so proud" sheet from the shelves in the corridor, and hand it in to us.

If you do any learning at home linked to our topic or anything else, please let us know so that we can talk with your child and celebrate with them.

We will be inviting all parents in to look in their child's learning journey over the next few weeks. We will let you know when it is your child's turn.

### How to Help at Home

- Choose a polar animal and find out some facts about it. Maybe even make a book!
- Think about what you might need to take with you if you were travelling to the South Pole.
- Find out about a famous Arctic explorer such as Ernest Shackleton.
- Play with ice, and find out how long it takes for an ice cube to melt in different places around your house.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please speak to us at any drop off or pick up times, or phone or email to arrange an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support, Rabbits Staff