

Spring Term 2018

Newsletter to Parents

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year! May we take this opportunity to thank all of you who kindly sent in gifts and cards this Christmas - we were bowled over by your generosity and kind words.

The main theme this term will be '**Antarctica**'. This will include learning about climate types, animals and how they adapt to their homes and some famous polar explorers.

In **English** we will use stories that link to our topic to read, retell and act out. We will then use these familiar structures to write our own stories using some of the 'story language' we have learnt, starting with 'Lost and found'. We will be looking at sentence structures as part of our grammar, making sure we use full stops and capital letters correctly before moving on to more ambitious punctuation. The children will also have their daily phonics/spelling and guided reading sessions. To support their speaking and listening skills, our 'show and tell' sessions will begin soon; a letter will be sent home soon with details and dates.

In **Maths** the children will continue to learn key number skills throughout the year such as reading, writing, sequencing and ordering numbers to 10, 20, 100 and beyond, counting, adding and subtracting, learning number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 and times tables. They will also be learning key skills in working with time, money, shape, space, measures and statistics throughout the term.

In **Science** the children will be learning about animals and their habitats and how they are best suited to live there. We will also learn about humans, naming and locating different parts of the body, looking at the human skeleton and learning how we keep healthy. We will continue to look for seasonal changes, talking about how and why they happen.

We will also be learning how to work scientifically, asking questions, observing, testing, gathering data and identifying answers.

Children will continue to be taught **Games** by our Sports coach on **Thursdays**. On **Fridays** they will have a **Gymnastics** lesson in the hall. Please ensure your child's **full PE kit is in school every day and that all items are clearly named**. They will need shorts and a t-shirt, a warm jumper or tracksuit top and outdoor trainers. Forest sessions will run in blocks on a Tuesday afternoon, Year one will start after half term and then year two after Easter - keep an eye out for a reminder in the home school diary.

Home Learning will continue to be set every Friday. Encourage your child to use their best presentation for all Home Learning tasks (pencil not pen/biro/felt-tip please) and to hand in work on time - Monday for spelling books and Wednesday for yellow folders.

Mathletics and purple mash logins are stuck into the front of everyone's home school diaries so please make the most of these resources. BBC bitesize also provides great resources which support school learning with games, information and video clips in all subjects for all key stages.

Please remember that regular, daily reading is an essential part of home learning and really makes a difference across the curriculum.

It is proven that childrens' literacy skills are boosted by being read to on a regular basis so don't forget the all important bedtime story - snuggle up and enjoy!!!!

Year one children need to keep up with their phonic knowledge so please continue to support them at home - a good online resource is 'phonics play'.

Please feel free to send in any items you think would support the children's learning this term such as books, photographs, posters, artefacts etc.

We hope you find this information useful. We thank you in advance for your help in supporting your child so they can achieve their full potential. You are welcome to come and speak to us if you have any questions or queries!

Yours sincerely,

Beech Class Team

Mrs Courtman-Stock, Mrs Askew, Mrs Gosling.

