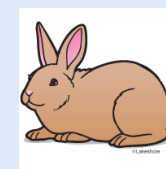




## Spring Term 1 2024

### 'I wonder about our world...'



#### Welcome Back!

We hope you all have had a lovely Christmas break, and we wish you all a very happy New Year. We would also like to say how proud we were of all the Reception children for their performances during our Christmas nativity at the end of last term. This term our main topic will be based around 'I wonder about our world...'. We will begin by thinking about what life is like in the polar regions and in particular, Antarctica. We will be thinking about what the weather is like, what things we might need if we were to visit and also what animals live in Antarctica. We will then move on to learn about castles, first focusing on facts and key features of castles and then how it might be very different to how we live now. Our final topic will be ancient China and some of the traditional Chinese stories such as the Chinese New Year Story, the Magic Paintbrush and the Willow Pattern story.

#### PE

This half term, our PE days will change to Tuesdays, and we will be lucky enough to have some of our lessons with some of our sports coaches. At the end of last half term, many of the children's PE kits were taken home. Please could all parents/carers ensure your child has their PE kits back in school for Tuesday. Our lessons will continue to be inside so children will only need plain black or blue shorts or leggings and a plain blue/red or white T-shirt.

#### Reading

Please don't forget to keep reading with your children. Reading is one of the most important and beneficial types of learning you can do with your child at home. Spending a little bit of time listening to your child read as well as reading stories to your child are both very important. Please remember we will need your child's books in school on Mondays and Thursdays.

#### Key Dates

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 9:00am - Early Years Reading Cafe  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - NSPCC Number Day  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - ESA Film Night  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 9:05am - Rabbit Class Assembly

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 6:30pm - ESA Rock 'n' Roll Bingo  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February - Safer Internet Day  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 9:05am - Squirrel Class Assembly

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be building on our understanding of sharing ideas and why it is important to listen to others. We will then extend this further by helping the children to begin to negotiate and work through problems.

### Physical Development

Our P.E lessons will now be on Tuesdays. We will be having our lessons with one of our sports coaches and our focus will be on Multi-skills. During these lessons we will be learning all about how to follow instructions, work as a team and problem solve, along with thinking about why health and fitness is important and how exercise can help us with this.

### Communication and Language

During this half term we are going to continue to build on our story map work as well as introducing the use of actions and Makaton signs to help us to be able to extend our story language by retelling and creating our own stories.

### Literacy

We want the children to become really secure in using their phase 2 phonics sounds to create their own short phrases and sentences, this half term, along with continuing to teach the children about how to use finger spaces.

We will also begin learning our phase 3 phonics sounds. Please look out for new tricky words which will be sent home soon.

### Mathematics

A big focus this half term will be teaching the children about subitising and how we can start to recognise different representations of numbers 1-5. We will then be introducing subtraction and how we can use objects to physically make our subtraction problems. Finally, we will be learning about time order and how we can put events in order of time.

### Understanding the world

As part of our 'I wonder about our world...' topic, we will begin by investigating the Polar Regions, with a specific focus on Antarctica and penguins. We will then move on to think about what life might have been like living in a castle, before finishing the half term learning about the festival of Chinese New Year.

### Expressive Art and Design

Our Reception children will begin this term by learning about how we can use different media and materials to create our own art work. During our Chinese New Year topic we will find out about how many ancient Chinese artists would use scrolls to create their art and why cherry blossoms are important. We will then move on to use our learning about how castles have lasted for many years, to create our own castle models.