

12th January 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday and that the children are looking forward to another busy and exciting term at Castle Park School. Our main topic for this half term is **"The Arctic"** which we hope will engage and inspire the children to develop their skills across the curriculum. This topic will culminate in a whole school themed week based on the Arctic and Antarctic just before February half term, during which we will be welcoming to school some real explorers who have had experience of expeditions to the polar regions.

For those of you who don't already know, we are fortunate enough to have a final placement trainee teacher working with our class for the rest of the Spring term. Her name is Miss Anna Fletcher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Bond and Mrs Clement (Class teachers)

<p>English</p> 	<p>The children will continue to have a daily phonics lesson which supports reading and spelling development and a weekly guided reading and "Reading for Pleasure" session in order to develop fluency and comprehension skills. In phonics we will be moving on to phase 4 of the 'Letters and Sounds' phonic programme where we focus on words with adjacent consonants e.g. flip, belt, crisp, etc. There will continue to be a strong focus on independent sentence writing as well as correct letter formation. We will also learn to incorporate detail to our writing using conjunctions like 'because' and 'and'.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In maths we will be working on extending our knowledge and understanding of a variety of topics. We plan to work on our understanding of time, looking at telling the time to the o'clock and half past the hour, recognising the language relating to dates and sequencing events in order. The children will begin to compare and measure lengths and heights as well as learning about the fractions of quarters and halves, relating these to 2D shapes. Finally we will also be developing their knowledge and quick recall of number facts through their "Learn Its" in our Big Maths sessions.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half term, we will be exploring the characteristics of Arctic animals and thinking how they have adapted to their habitat. We will also be learning about ice and its properties, and will even try to make our own icebergs! The children will be making observations and recording their ideas.</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>The children will be using search engines to find information about Arctic animals and famous Arctic explorers. We will also be programming the Beebot robots to move in various directions helping us to learn our left from our right.</p>

<p>History</p> 	<p>The children will be learning about the Inuit way of life and the changes that have occurred over time to the lives of the Inuit, including their homes, food, clothing and transport. We will also be learning about Roald Amundsen and his Arctic expeditions in the early 20th century.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>The children will be locating the Arctic Circle on a world map and investigating the countries that are in the Arctic Circle. They will be finding out about the climate in the Arctic and describing some of the physical features of the landscape.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>In our art sessions the children will be exploring the colours in the Arctic landscape and linking the use of colour to express different emotions. We will explore Aurora Borealis formations, and use different art skills and materials to create our own Northern Lights artwork. The children will also be looking at some very distinctive Inuit sculptures and prints, using these as a stimulus to produce their own Inuit art.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>The children will be following the Charanga music programme and will be learning about the 'blues' scale. They will begin to compose and improvise different rhythms. The children will learn some new musical vocabulary and will work together in an ensemble to perform pieces of music.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session a week. The indoor session will focus on gymnastics and the children will be developing a simple floor routine. The outdoor session will focus on developing skills used for netball, football and hockey. Please ensure that your child has a tracksuit (or similar warm clothing) as part of their outdoor P.E. kit, as we will be outside unless it is pouring with rain!</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term the Religious Education focus will be 'Places of Worship'. The children will be encouraged to think about the different places of worship in our locality and think about how they differ.</p>
<p>School Values</p> 	<p>Our School Value this half term is Reflection and pupils will be reflecting about their New Year's Resolutions - new beginnings, making changes or starting something new.</p> <p>The children will start to unpick the range of feelings they might experience in different situations and through discussion in Philosophy sessions and Circle Time, they will be encouraged to express their opinions and value each other's ideas.</p>
<p>Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>In conjunction with our "Arctic" topic, the children will be considering some of the issues surrounding melting ice caps and the impact this has on the wildlife living there.</p> <p>We will also be thinking about how to care for wild animals and respect and care for their habitat.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home in addition to the weekly spellings and Friday Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (school books or home books are fine) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Shopping (using coins and getting change) • Telling the time • Finding out about the Arctic and Polar Regions