

17th January 2019

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 after February half term, during which we will be welcoming back to school the explorer Leo Houlding, who has recently led a successful trip to Antarctica.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Leck (Class teacher)

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| <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. There will be a strong focus on grammar and punctuation this half term and the children will develop their understanding of nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. We will also be looking at exclamation marks, question marks, commas and apostrophes. The children will continue to develop and extend their ideas and stamina for writing by writing for a range of purposes and drawing on real life experiences.</p> |
| <p>Mathematics</p>  | <p>This half term, we will begin with a geometry unit exploring symmetry and rotation of shapes, before moving onto measures (cm/kg) and reading scales. Throughout this term, the children will focus on learning multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables before moving onto the 3 times tables. We will also spend time developing money handling skills. The children will practise making totals using different coins and giving change. We will continue to develop children's skills when solving word problems and secure written methods for showing calculations. The children will also be developing their knowledge and quick recall of number facts through their "Learn Its" in our Big Maths sessions/early morning activities.</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. We will also be looking at trees in Winter and sorting a range of trees into evergreen and deciduous groups.</p> |
| <p>ICT and Computing</p>  | <p>The children will be using the child friendly search engine www.kidrex.org to find information about Arctic animals and famous Arctic explorers. The children will be developing their typing skills using the BBC Dance Mat Typing programme.</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 changes in their homes, food, clothing and transport. We will also be learning about Roald Amundsen and his Arctic expeditions in the early 20th century.</p> |

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| <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 and using these as a stimulus to produce their own Inuit art.</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>As part of 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 • Research about the Arctic and Polar regions, animals and the environment in this part of the world |