

17th January 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school. We 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.

For those of you who don't already know, we are fortunate enough to have a School Direct trainee teacher working with our class for 5 weeks during the Spring term. Her name is Mrs Kirsty Keech.

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. In these sessions, we will revise Phase 3 sounds, whilst also moving on to Phase 4, where we focus on words with adjacent consonants e.g. flip, belt, crisp. Weekly guided reading sessions will continue in order to reinforce phonic knowledge and skills and to develop fluency and comprehension. In writing, there will be a strong focus on independent sentence writing as well as correct letter formation. We will learn to incorporate detail to our writing using conjunctions like 'because' and 'and'. Our writing will link closely to our 'Arctic' topic, with the children writing fact files about animals, riddles and labels etc. Finally, we will begin sending home weekly spellings for the children to practise. These will be sent home on a Friday, in preparation for a spelling test the following Friday.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In maths, we will begin the half term exploring common 2D and 3D shapes. The children will learn the names of shapes and begin to discuss their properties, such as sides, corners, faces and edges. We will then move on to place value to 20, with the children learning to partition numbers into tens and ones and then compare and order objects and numbers. Finally, addition and subtraction to 20 will be covered. A range of methods will be taught, including making number bonds, counting on and using practical resources. The children will also continue to have daily practise of their individual 'Learn It' targets.</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 and igloos! The children will be making observations and recording their ideas. We will also be looking at trees in Winter and sorting them into evergreen and deciduous groups.</p>

<p>ICT  and Computing</p>	<p>The children will be using search engines 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 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 them 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>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) • Telling the time • Finding out about the Arctic