

28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the half term holiday. I hope you all had a restful break and I am delighted to see the children back with the same enthusiasm for learning! Amazingly, we are over half way through this academic year and, once again, I would like to outline the curriculum for this half term.

We have three main mini topics that we will be covering this half term, those being **"The Arctic and Antarctic"**, **"Peter and the Wolf"** and **"Easter"**.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Mrs Leck

<p>English</p> 	<p>Our literacy lessons, this half term, will continue to focus on developing writing skills. We will be writing for a range of purposes including recounts, descriptions, poetry and retelling stories. We will learn how to use inverted commas and similes, and think about how to improve our descriptive vocabulary. As usual, we will continue to work on developing a neat, joined up handwriting style, and applying our phonic knowledge to support spellings. The children will be encouraged to use dictionaries and begin to read through and edit their work in order to make it even better. We will continue to give the children lots of reading opportunities and encourage an ethos of "Reading for Pleasure". We will also be answering questions about the texts we read in order to develop comprehension skills and extend vocabulary.</p> <p>The whole school will be enjoying a "Poetry Week" in the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> March in which we will be learning about a range of poetry styles, learning poems off by heart and taking part in workshops with local poet John Rice. We also have World Book Day to enjoy on 7<sup>th</sup> March.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>Our maths lessons will continue to focus on developing confidence using a range of different strategies to support calculations. We will be encouraging the children to develop their mental arithmetic skills, and increase their knowledge of multiplication and division facts. We will be introducing the children to fractions, and practising finding <math>\frac{1}{2}</math>, <math>\frac{1}{3}</math>, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math>, <math>\frac{2}{4}</math>, and <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> of shapes, sets of objects and numbers. 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".</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>This half term, we will continue to use our topic on the Arctic/Antarctic as a basis for our science lessons. We will be learning how animals adapt to surviving in such a harsh environment, and think about survival and food chains. The children will be carrying out some experiments using ice, thinking about freezing/melting points and exploring what effect salt has on ice.</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>The children will be developing their typing skills using the BBC Dance Mat Typing - Level One programme, which has fun and interactive exercises to help the children become more familiar with the location of keys on the keyboard.</p>

<p>Music</p> 	<p>This half term, the children will be learning about the different instruments in the orchestra by listening to the story of "Peter and the Wolf" by Sergei Prokofiev. The children will be thinking about whether these instruments belong in the brass, woodwind, percussion or string sections of the orchestra, and how they represent each character in the story.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p>	<p>In Design and Technology, the children will be using the "Peter and the Wolf" music as a starting point to design and develop their own musical instruments. Our artwork will continue to link to our topics and the children will be drawing the characters from Peter and the Wolf and making pictures from recycled products.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session a week. The indoor session will focus on developing fitness to music, and the children will develop their stamina and co-ordination by taking part in dance/aerobic sessions. 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) and outdoor trainers for these sessions.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term, the Religious Education focus will be "Easter". The children will be encouraged to think about how the church celebrates Easter, and explore the symbolism of the Easter Egg representing new life and change. We also have a visit planned to Sandylands Church so that the children can compare different churches within the locality.</p>
<p>School Values</p> 	<p>Our School Value this half term is "Respect" and pupils will be thinking about how we can respect ourselves, others and our environment.</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, where they will be encouraged to express their opinions and value each other's ideas.</p>
<p>Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>At this time each year, the children are encouraged to think about Fairtrade and how we can help others in poorer countries by buying Fairtrade products. The children will be thinking about the range of fairtrade products available to buy, and how whole communities can benefit by paying farmers a fair price.</p> <p>We also have Comic Relief/Red Nose Day on 15<sup>th</sup> March to raise money to improve people's lives in the UK and worldwide.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>The children will be locating where Fairtrade products come from on a World Map and thinking about the journey these products have made in order to get into our shops.</p> <p>We will continue to learn about the Arctic and Antarctic and are looking forward to a special visit by local explorer Leo Houlding, who has recently returned from an Antarctic expedition.</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"> <li>• Daily reading (school books or home books are fine)</li> <li>• Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring)</li> <li>• Shopping (using coins and getting change)</li> <li>• Telling the time</li> <li>• Practising the 2x, 5x, and 10x tables and related division facts</li> <li>• Keeping a diary/journal</li> </ul>