

Overview: This half term we will be exploring the seasonal changes that happen at this time of the year and look for different signs of winter during our welly walks. The children will learn about how we look after ourselves in Winter. We will be using our knowledge of seasons in our country and comparing this to contrasting locations - the Arctic and Antarctic regions as well as parts of India. We will read a selection of fiction and non fiction books to compare different features of these places.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be :

- Continuing to learn about the qualities of a good friend.
- Learning to be independent with self help skills, particularly how we can look after ourselves during winter weather.
- Learning about how we can set ourselves simple goals at school and how we can achieve these.
- Continuing to develop our understanding of different emotions and how we can manage our feelings.
- Introducing the 5Cs (comfortable, count, control, capable and connected) as part of our Empowerment Approach.

Communication and Language

We will be:

- Learning to engage in back and forth conversations with both peers and adults.
- Continuing to learn a range of songs, rhymes and stories and learn to identify key events in narrative.
- Learning to identify 'who' 'what' and 'where' in stories.
- Continuing 'Drawing Club' which allows us to open up the magic world of tales and stories to the children whilst at the same time enriching their language and vocabulary, developing their fine motor skills and building upon their application of phonics.

Physical Development

We will be:

- Continuing to explore a variety of malleable materials by patting, poking, squeezing, pinching and twisting them.
- Continuing to form the graphemes that correspond to the phonemes we have been learning.
- Working with Starlight Gymnastics to develop our fundamental movement skills.
- Working on multiskills and how to play simple games.

Phonics and Literacy

This half term, the children will be applying their knowledge of the phase 2 sounds in their independent reading and writing. The children will learn Phase 3 vowel digraphs in the following order:

Week 1: ai, ee, igh, oa

Week 2: oo, oo, ar, or

Week 3: ur, ow, oi, ear

Week 4: air, er, words with double letters: dd, mm, tt, bb, rr, gg, pp, ff

Week 5: longer words

The following tricky words will also be taught:

Week 1: review previous tricky words

Week 2: was, you, they

Week 3: my, by, all

Week 4: are, sure, pure

Week 5: review

Understanding of the World

We will be:

- Using our class calendar to understand that events happen in the past, present and future.
- Exploring our school grounds and describing our observations.
- Learning to compare different places in the world using maps and texts to explore and discover similarities and differences.
- Learning about Jesus as a storyteller and exploring some of the stories that he told and what we can learn from them.
- Learning how to take photos and videos on the I-pads, continuing to think about the importance of staying safe online.

Maths

We will be:

- Learning about the concept of 'zero.'
- Continuing to learn to represent the numbers 1 – 5 in different ways and find more and less than these numbers.
- Learning to represent 6,7,8 in different ways and find 1 more and 1 less. The children will explore the different compositions of these numbers and use a range of practical resources to partition the numbers in different ways.
- Learning about odd numbers and even numbers through the concept of 'pairs'.
- Learning to find doubles to 8 and combine groups.
- Learning to compare mass and capacity, use balance scales and a range of different containers to explore these mathematical concepts.

Expressive Art and Design

We will be:

- Learning about the techniques of collage and printing, using a range of materials. Whilst exploring these materials, the children will learn about different textures.
- Learning about different tools that can be used to join and create with.
- Exploring role play and dramatisation of familiar stories.



How you can support at home:

Continue to help your child to be as independent as possible with self help skills – fastening coats by themselves and ensuring they can put their own gloves on.

Encourage children to be responsible for their own belongings.

Continue to encourage the use of a knife and fork to cut up their own food this will make them more independent at lunchtimes.

Continue to share a range of stories at home, discussing key moments, predictions, characters' emotions alongside identifying the sounds they have learnt and decoding simple words.

Give your child lots of opportunities to read the tricky words we have taught.

Your child will continue to be allocated an online Collins Hub book that is matched to their developing reading abilities. These books will have been read 3 times at school so they should be confident to read them with 90% fluency at home. Sometimes your child may be too tired to read and that's okay! On these occasions, they may prefer it if you read a story to them instead.

Research suggests having a playful adult is a pivotal part of early brain development, it lays a foundation for all future learning so try to find pockets of time to find your inner child and have fun!

Reminders and Key Dates:

PE days – Tuesday and Thursday

Please ensure everything is named, including socks, gloves and hats!