

Understanding the World (Science, History & Geography)

This half term we will in science be recapping categorising animals and then looking in more detail at penguins, where they live, what they eat, how they move and how they have their young.

In history we will be finding out what an explorer is and focus on the ice explorers Earnest Shackleton, Mathew Henson and Felicity Aston, exploring similarities and differences as well as their personal achievements.

In geography we will be looking at Antarctica, where it is and how it is different to the UK. We may even go on a virtual trip to find some penguins!

Expressive Arts (Art, DT and Music)

We will be completing lots of art including firework art, cold colour water colours, blending and Christmas craft activities. We will also be exploring sliders and leavers within our DT lessons. The children will be completing music with Mrs Rood this half term.

Literacy, Communication and Language (English)

In literacy our main key text this half term will be 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. We will be having lots of book talk opportunities to develop new vocabulary and the year 1 & 2 children will be exploring adjectives to assist with describing scenes and characters as well as past tense writing to allow them to rewrite the story in their own words, focusing on the structure of a story having a beginning, a middle and an end. We will also be researching Earnest Shackleton using different methods and writing a non-chronological report with our findings.

Reception children will continue to develop their formation of letters and segmenting words to spell.

STARLING CLASS OVERVIEW- Autumn 2

Winter Animals and Ice Explorers



Welcome back after your half term break. Hope you found the opportunity to spend some family time together. May we welcome Reuben and his family to Starling Class. We are so pleased Reuben has joined us and the children are already being very supportive to Reuben as he settles into his new class.

We are now on our lead up to Christmas where we have some lovely activities coming up including a trip to the pantomime, spirituality day, a living nativity experience and of course our class nativity.

We will continue to keep as much routine as possible in our day to allow our learning to take place this half term, which we are really excited about.

Can I please ask that now the weather has changed that the children come to school every day with a coat. If you have any questions then please do catch myself or Miss Holden at the gate or via Dojo. Mrs Ball and Miss Holden. ☺

Maths

Our new maths programme has shown a positive impact on the children's understanding of mathematical concepts so far. The NCETM programme is designed to give the children the opportunity to really embed the core skills and deep understanding of number which will assist them as they progress into Key Stage 2.

Year 1 focus: Comparison of quantities and numbers to 5.

Year 2 focus: Adding and subtraction within 10 and of two digit numbers.

Reception children will be following our Mastering Number programme focusing on a deep understanding of numbers to 5.

Reading and Phonics

We will continue to read with your children three times a week during 'Reading Practice' sessions in school.

Please do read with your child at home and aim for at least 3 times a week to help with fluency. It is proven that children who read at home regular are more successful in their reading and writing as they develop through their education.

Little Wandle Phonics will happen daily for Years R and 1 where they will be busy learning new graphemes and digraphs. We will send these home for practice as we learn them.

Year 2 children are embracing our new 'Bridge to Spelling' programme through Little Wandle phonics.

This will assist with spelling rules to help them choose the correct grapheme and digraphs in their writing.

Years 1 & 2 will continue to have weekly spellings sent home to practice ready for the Friday assessment.

Explorer Time

Explorer Time is built into the day for both Reception and KS1 children. Explorer time is a type of provision where learning takes place within play through either child-initiated or adult-led activities. Within Explorer Time we can play alongside the children while discovering their interests and challenge their thinking. This evidence base approach to learning shows that this is the most effective way for our youngest learners to achieve the ambition set by schools while also giving them the opportunity for brain breaks between lessons.

Alongside this play based provision the children benefit from engaging in social interactions which support their development of Personal, Social and Emotional skills as well as their mental wellbeing and teamwork.

PE

PE will be on a Wednesday afternoon with the sports coach Mr Lee. Please could you send your child to school with a named PE bag and kit as we will be changing in school for PE this year.