

### **Literacy**

We will start this half term looking at two fiction books called One Snowy Night (Winter) and Mrs Lather's Laundry which we are using to learn about toys from the past (see History below). We will then move on to looking at fiction and non-fiction books linked to our geography topic based on comparing our local area with a polar environment.

We end this half term by returning to poetry: poems that can be performed, re-visiting old favourites and learning some new ones based on different themes.

Birkrigg will start handwriting sessions this term. I will be sending out an overview of our handwriting planning next week, along with a guide to how we teach the letter families, letter formation and capital letters.

Library book day is Wednesday. We will change children's books when they return the previous book they have borrowed.

Please try to hear your child read at least 3 times a week and remember to either tick or comment in your child's Reading Record. Listening to your child read has a huge impact on their progress in reading. Children have new reading bookmarks to which a sticker is added every time they read at home.

### **Useful reading and phonic websites**

We use a number of websites in school that children can access at home:

Oxford Owls- a free website that adults can log in to which gives children access to online reading books with linked activities.

[www.ictgames.co.uk](http://www.ictgames.co.uk)- a free website that has useful phonics games such as Tell a T Rex and DJ Cow.

Crickweb- free online games based on phonics, maths and knowledge and understanding of the world.

### **Maths**

Over the next half term we will investigate time, data handling, 2d and 3d shape, multiplication and division. In our number work we are continuing to recognise and work with numbers to 20 and then to 100.

Daily Little Big Maths sessions (CLiC) will continue and maths targets linked to these sessions will be reviewed as appropriate during W2.

### **History**

We will learn simple historical vocabulary and investigate how washing and ironing clothes has changed over the past 100 years.

### **Geography**

We are using the book Poles Apart by Jeanne Willis as our jumping off point for a study of our local area and polar regions. As part of our study we will go on a number of local field trips to look at features of our environment. We will notify you of these trips in advance and may require parent helpers.

### **Creative**

In Design Technology sessions children will be working on larger scale group projects, practising some of the cutting and joining skills children worked on in the Autumn term. We will be designing and building different

shelters, the children can use a variety of tools and techniques to construct and their shelters then they will evaluate their work. This half term in music the children will be singing, playing and identifying different pitches. They will learn new songs and accompany them with tuned and untuned instruments.

### **Science**

Along with our termly weather and seasons update we are going to look at senses within the human body this half term. Children will work on thinking about how to organise and record a scientific investigation based on freezing and melting.

### **RE**

We start the term by looking at the importance of Epiphany (the visit of the 3 kings). Our RE unit this half term is based on Favourite books and Stories that Jesus told.

### **Games**

Children will continue to work on co-ordinating and controlling large and small movements, negotiating spaces and handling equipment effectively. We will use resources such as beanbags, balls and hoops.

### **Dance**

We are going to be following the BBC dance programme based on Winter following sessions such as Jack Frost , Let's Build a Snowman and Creatures in the Snow.

### **Computing**

In Computing we will be using word processing skills, completing computer programs and learning typing skills. We will also be learning about the first stages of programming by looking at Bee-Bots and Roamers. We will be having a Programmable toys day early in the term (more information to follow).

- Toast money for Spring 1 will be £1.50 if you would like to pay in advance
- Children are being asked to bring in their favourite book from home, on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January to discuss in our RE session.
- We are collecting books with a snow, ice or winter theme. Please make sure your child's name is in any books they bring in
- Please ensure all PE kits, including pumps that fit, are back in school by Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January