

Birkrigg – Spring 1

Welcome to a new half term. Our topic this term is **Pole to Pole** and this half term we will focus on the Arctic and Arctic explorers. At the end of our half term, we have a class trip booked to Brockhole where children will take part in 'Brock's Winter Wander', a wildlife-themed day that will consist of two activities (with a lunch break between) which will help children explore some of the wonderful nature at Brockhole.

Literacy

Phonics continues to be taught first thing in the morning with Year 1 and Reception being taught separately. Reading books will still be changed on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** for both Reception and Year 1 children. When you hear your child read, please comment in their reading record. All children take part in group reading sessions with a member of staff two or three times weekly. Sessions include decoding text in a new book, prosody and reading comprehension.

In Literacy, our key text Nibbles the Book Monster by Emma Yarlett. Year 1 children will build on last half term's learning, composing sentences orally before writing them and developing the Year 1 mastery skills of joining ideas using 'and', punctuating sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, using capital letters for names of people and sequencing sentences to form short narratives. By the end of the unit, they will be able to write a recount - diary. Reception children will be given lots of opportunities to write using their phonic knowledge to date.

Maths

Maths continues to be taught separately to Reception and Year 1. Reception children are extending their number work up to number 8 as well as understanding the number zero. We are going to be doing lots of work on number bonds, pairs of numbers that can be added together to make another number and combining 2 groups of numbers. We do of course take every opportunity to count larger groups of objects as well – how many children in our class today, etc. We will also investigate mass and capacity, and towards the end of the half term, length.

We will cover two Year 1 Maths blocks this half term, again building on last term's learning. This time our place value and addition and subtraction blocks work with numbers to 20.

Science

Our first lesson will look at how day length varies in winter before we move on to our new topic of 'Animals, including humans'. We will identify and name common animals, firstly using the book One Snowy Night (this links to our class trip) before thinking about other animals of the world. We will learn about the animal groups – mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects, and about animal diets and carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Geography/History

We will begin our 'Pole to Pole' topic by learning to use world maps, globes and Google Earth to locate the UK and other familiar countries as well as the names of the 7 continents and 5 oceans of the world. We will then focus on the polar regions, learning about what conditions are like there before studying the Arctic explorer, Matthew Henson. Reception will explore world maps, looking at land and sea, before exploring what it is like in polar regions and which animals live there.

RE

Our topic is called My World and Jesus' World. We will explore through Bible stories what life was like then, the houses that people lived in, the clothes and food that people ate. We will also look at Jewish festivals that Jesus would have taken part in such as Passover and Shabbat.

PSHE

Our topic is all about 'Living in the wider world'. We will be thinking about what a community is and what different communities we might belong to. We will learn about how people have different needs, and we will use a resource from the Alzheimer's Society to understand the importance of memory and as an introduction to dementia in the community. We end the half term by thinking about how we care for animals and the environment.

Music

Our unit is 'In the Groove' in which we will explore different musical styles, including Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk.

Art and Design

Last half term we made some wonderful fire engines and the first thing we need to do this half term is to evaluate them before the children take them home. After this, we have two lovely Arctic inspired pieces of artwork to create. We will experiment with watercolours, chalk, stencils and sponge painting.

Computing

We will continue our work on sorting information using Purple Mash to create Pictograms before learning how to follow and create simple instructions on the computer in our unit 'Lego Builders'.

PE

This half term our two PE sessions are on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. On Tuesdays we will focus on creating a simple floor routine, incorporating rolls such as teddy rolls, pencil rolls and forward rolls. On Wednesdays from next week, Cam from HP Activities will be working with the children on multi-skills. On PE days it is helpful if long hair is tied back, and earrings are removed or covered.

Weather permitting, Reception children will be able to use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and the whole class will get out onto the school field when we can.

Please can you ensure that your child always has a waterproof coat in school. A pair of wellies would also be very useful.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to come and speak to us.

Miss Turner and Mrs Jessop