

# Grange View C.E



# First School

Welcome to this half terms  
Topic Information letter  
for Willow and Chestnut  
Class

**Mrs Timmins, Mrs Metcalfe  
& Miss Conroy**



# Our Cool

# World

Spring Half Term (1)

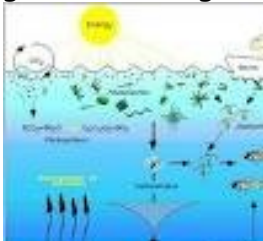
## Numeracy:

Our key focus this half term - Children will be starting their work on multiplication and division by solving problems and reasoning their explanations. It will really help with their learning if they are accessing Times Table Rockstars at home. We will also start to look at fractions and area in Year 4 and money and statistics in Year 3.

## Science - Food chains, Keeping Warm.

Our big theme this term is Our Cool World. Within which the children will be studying two big Science topics.

The first of which is food chains, where the children will research, study and compare the living environments of animals in Antarctica, England and other places around the world. This will lead to them finding out about food chains, the importance of producers and how global warming is having an effect.



Our second topic is keeping warm, where the children will investigate conductors, insulators and learning how to preserve warmth in the Antarctic.

## Music - Recorders Tuesdays

As part of our Music connections, the children have been learning to play the recorders Drums. Since September, our teacher has been coming into school each week and teaching us. We have learnt songs on our recorders and three notes so far. We have been learning how to read music ready to learn some more notes to play.



## Literacy

### Reading

During this half term children will read in a variety of situations throughout the week at school in a shared whole class session, in a small group guided session, one to one with an adult and also independently. The children will look at a range of stories based on imaginary worlds, explanations and language play in poetry.

### Writing

The children will write in the following genres; Explanations based around their topic work and creative writing using a video clip to inspire their work.

They will learn to improve their sentences particularly focusing on adverbs and appropriate adjectives within sentences, as well as continuing to work through their spellings in a weekly test.

### Speaking & Listening

Children will be presenting information they have collected to their class and through team building activities.

## DT/Art - Pop up mechanisms, fridge magnets, soup and insulating cups

Children will be learning how to do pop up mechanisms so that they can choose different techniques to illustrate their Cool World Arctic story. As well as design, make and paint their own fridge magnet.

They will also follow a recipe to make their winter soup and design and make their own insulating mug to keep it warm.



## Geography/History

Within our topic of 'Cool World' the children will be studying and learning about different locations around the world and how their climates differ.

This will allow discussions and research into global warming and climate control as well as supporting their Scientific learning about habitats.

### GLACIERS & ICEBERG



We will be starting our term with a Historic England inspired research project. Using maps, aerial photographs and census information to learn about how life in Widdrington has changed over time

## PSHE Living in the Wider World

In Year 3 we are focusing on rules and laws, rights and responsibilities, resolving differences, diversity and managing money.

In Year 4 we are focusing on rules and behaviour in society, managing money and how our actions can have an impact. These sessions will be based around discussions between the children, whilst looking at resources.

## RE - What did Jesus think about God?

Throughout this topic the children will develop their understanding of the God through the parables of Jesus. They will learn key vocabulary to discuss and describe God.



## PE - Dance

Usually we would be preparing for a dance showcase at the end of the half term, but due to COVID this will not be going ahead. Instead the PE leads have created a fantastic resource for our classes to learn a dance and still participate with other schools virtually. Watch out for a video of our brilliant dancers and their routine.



## MFL - French - All about me

As part of their language learning the children will be learning vocabulary to talk about themselves. They will be learning key vocabulary for clothes, their body and colours so they can describe themselves in basic French.



## ICT - Databases and word processing

Having learnt about branching databases in previous years, the children will now be using their knowledge of arctic animals to create and sort animals in a database.



Also as part of their literacy work they will be writing their own Arctic stories, then using ICT to type up a neat version of their stories to create a story book.

## Homework

**Reading** - Children will be bringing home their home reading books during the week. It would be helpful if you could either write or sign the book to say you have heard them read, it helps us to avoid repeat reading the same pages.

**Spellings and Times Tables** - Children will be given differentiated spellings to learn for their weekly spelling test on a Friday morning. Please help your child as much as possible learn these words as they will help with their confidence and fluency as both a reader and writer. They will also have a specific times table to focus on within Times Table Rock Stars - the participation so far has been excellent and shows great improvements in the pupils speed.

**Maths / English Homework** - Children will be given some Maths homework on Mathematics each Friday that needs to be completed by the following Friday morning for class dojo rewards. The maths homework is usually linked to the work they have done that week in Numeracy and should be appropriate for them to complete independently. Once a term they will also be given a short writing task to complete in their purple home writing books, the focus of which will be written in their books along with the date for it to be handed in. Usually they have about three weeks to do the writing. The thought process behind this writing, is for your child to work on their ideas and sentence construction with you, in the hope that they will learn new phrases and ideas which they can then use in their everyday writing in class.

Thanks for your help and continued support

## Swimming

As in our previous half term, swimming is still not going ahead due to COVID. We will update you if there are any changes to this.

## Forest School / PE Kits

Classes will be using the forest area whenever possible, we have waterproof trousers which we provide for each child but please ensure that their wellies and warm winter coat /hat / gloves are in school so that are comfortable.

We are intending to do PE on Monday and Wednesday, so please ensure that they have their PE Kits as well as appropriate footwear in school on these days.