



Our Cool World

Welcome to this half terms
topic information letter
from Elm and Beech class

Mrs Metcalfe, Miss Darlow
Mrs Hepworth, Mrs Borley and Mrs Swinney

Spring Half Term (1) 2019

Our new theme will be - Our Cool World

Children will have the opportunity to develop their geography knowledge and understanding by looking at life in the polar regions of The Arctic and Antarctica. They will use this topic as a tool to enhance learning in other areas of the curriculum including writing, reading and numeracy.

Science

Animals including humans:

Through our topic we will develop our understanding of animals and their habitats. We will explore the needs of humans and other animals to stay alive, including adaptations for their environments.

Literacy

Across key stage 1 this half term we will continue our Read Write Inc phonics lessons through the use of the Get Writing Materials in addition to the existing phonics teaching and learning already in place.

We will also be extending our reading and writing skills through our topic work to help write descriptions of animals and their habitats.

There will also be opportunities for working on stories, explanation, information and instruction texts.

RE

This term we will be looking at the creation and the Bible story of Genesis. Children will learn the story in order to retell it and to be able to say what the story tells us about God. We will be thinking of nature and what Christians can do to help look after the world for God.



Design and Technology

We will be thinking about our Cool World theme while designing a cosy jumper to keep teddy warm. We will make use of fabrics and fabric pens to make and decorate our jumpers.



PE

Elm: Wednesday

Beech: Friday

We will be focusing upon gymnastics looking at movement in different ways and directions. We will also be exploring ways of jumping. All of this will be done both on the floor and while increasing our confidence on the gymnastic equipment. If you have not already done so could you please ensure your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name as there are occasions when clothes do get mixed up. Please ensure full PE kits are at school and no earrings, watches or rings are worn on PE days.



PSHE

We will learn about ways we can:

- feel good about our strengths
- calm ourselves down when we feel scared or upset
- tell if other people are feeling sad or scared and know how to make people feel better
- solve a problem
- make the classroom and school a safe and fair place for everyone, and that it is not OK for other people to make it unsafe or unfair to learn

Music

We will listen to a range of different classical musical pieces relating to winter and use this to extend thoughts about associated sights and sounds.

We will identify and describe different sounds heard during wintry weather and explore musical instruments to show these sounds. We will create a class composition, choosing sounds and instruments.

Geography

We will be extending our knowledge of the world from our locality to the polar regions of The Arctic and Antarctica where we will explore landscape features, animal inhabitants (including humans). We will develop our map reading skills as well as our understanding of where the coldest areas of the world are found. We will also be monitoring the weather in Widdrington and comparing our findings with information from the Arctic and Antarctic.

History

We will follow explorers of the past to understand The Arctic and Antarctic regions. We will learn to use observational skills to ask and answer questions using a variety of historical evidence. We will focus particularly on Shackleton's expeditions and his importance in the world through his recent win as this years BBC Icon winner for great explorers.

Maths

Continuing on our maths skills the children in year 1 will be looking at place value and numbers within 50, addition and subtraction facts and problem solving. In year 2 Children will be continuing their multiplication and division skills as well as working with money.

Homework

Maths Homework Mathematics homework is ready for children to access on line every Friday. There are very few children unable to access this and arrangements are able to be made for those without internet connectivity. Please speak to your child's class teacher.

Reading The children will continue to bring reading and library books home. **They are encouraged to read at home at least three times during the week.** This does not have to be a whole book at a time although evidence of their reading must be written in their reading record book. In year 1 a Dojo is given each week for reading at least 3 times and a sparkle prize at the end of half term if this is consistent.

Please encourage your children to hand their home-readers and record books to their teacher when they have finished their reading book at home and their reading record has been signed by an adult so we can get books changed as required.

We continue to visit the library each week (Elm on Wednesday and Beech on Friday) and children are allowed to take out a book. Children will not be able to get books out if they already have overdue books that have not been returned.

Talking Encourage children to appreciate and to take care of their surroundings. Talk about their learning in school and encourage further research if possible.

Out and About

Continue to draw attention to the changes that are happening at this time of the year. Encourage thinking about the weather in Widdrington especially temperature, cloud and rainfall.

Making Things and Playing Games Enhance their sharing and cooperation skills by playing traditional and modern tabletop games. Use junk and other materials to make models inspired by their school topic.

If it does snow why not use the opportunity to show understanding about polar regions. One time it snowed heavily a family made an igloo in their garden and it appeared in a local paper! What could you do?

Other Activities Out of School We love to hear about or see what your children have been doing at home whether related to our topic or not.

Home Time 3.15pm

If you need to change the usual arrangements for picking up your child from school, please let school know as soon as possible. As you will understand we cannot allow children to leave the school premises unless we have permission from parents or carers.

Parental Help/Resources

We would very much appreciate your help/skills/resources that would link to any of our topics throughout the year. If you feel that you could help us and your children out in any way please contact school and let us know.