

St Michaels CE (Aided) School

Overview of work for Reception Spring Term 2017

Teaching team: Miss Mearns and Mrs Duck

SNOW AND ICE TOPIC

This theme gives us the chance to explore stories and facts surrounding the North and South Pole, Antarctic and Arctic animals, and the properties of snow and ice. Celebrations this term include Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, Lent and Easter. After half term, signs of spring help us to track the seasons and we will be learning about life cycles. As always, we adapt our themes to respond to the children's interests.

WHAT WE WILL BE LEARNING

Phonics: Oral blending (sounding out words) remains the lynchpin for learning to read. Oral segmenting (e.g. what sounds can you hear in 'penguin') is how we teach children to begin writing. Accurate spelling of long words is not expected, and we give children lots of praise for attempting writing.

Handwriting: practising first name using correct cursive script. This will involve lots of tracing and practise at school and at home.

Literacy: listening to and discussing stories and information texts linked to our topic; writing sentences linked to stories.

Numeracy: Recognizing and ordering numbers 1-20, knowing one more and one less, doubles and halves. Moving on to the 100 square, counting in 10s, money.

Understanding the world: Finding the Arctic and Antarctica on the world map. Exploring melting and freezing, floating and sinking. Animals in the North and South Pole, as well as the lives of Inuit people. After half term: life cycles of chicks, butterflies and frogs, jobs people do on the farm.

Expressive Arts and Design: Andy Goldsworthy midsummer snowballs, clay animals. After half term, we will explore printing techniques.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING

We continue to encourage the children to use the environment to learn as well as to 'grow our brains'. In particular, we would like the children to challenge themselves to try new activities this term.

HOMEWORK

Sounds: It is good to keep practising the sounds in the tin, making silly words or real words. Confident children could begin to make words with four sounds (e.g. snip or mint).

Letter formation: Tracing is a successful way to help children secure the skills of cursive writing. In this way, they can concentrate on good letter formation.

Maths: Keep practising counting backwards as well as forwards. If you can, the ordering numbers to 10 or 20 is useful practise.

WOW! We love to hear of your children's triumphs at home – especially linked to family events or new skills they master. We have a special WOW! board in class.

HELPFUL REMINDERS

Library: Mrs Adey will be coming to school on Monday afternoons to take the children to the school library to choose a book and enjoy a story. Please return books to class each Monday morning.

Forest Schools: Children need warm overalls to cover their uniform or full length, thick trousers, waterproof coat and trousers, and layers of warmer clothing, including hats and gloves. Please make sure they children have a big bag for muddy clothes.

PE: Children will need shorts and a T-shirt for PE on Monday afternoons. As we sometimes change our timetable, please can kits be on your child's peg throughout the whole school week.

Reading Rocket: For children who have reading books, please record your child's reading in their yellow book, so we can collect points for the reading rocket. Also it helps us know when to change their reading books.