



A Long, Long Way Away



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be learning about keeping ourselves safe in different situations using the programme of study from SCARF called Keeping Safe. It covers what is safe to go in our bodies, keeping safe indoors and outdoors, internet safety and people who can help to keep you safe. We shall also be continuing with the My Happy Mind, programme already running in school.

We will be celebrating and learning more about the Chinese New Year which is the Year of the horse and falls, during half term, on 17th February 2026 this year.

Learning Intentions:

- Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
- Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally.

Communication and Language

Our 'Spotlight' books are focusing on non-fiction texts. We hope to find out lots of information and facts about the Polar regions and the animals that live there and understand that not all books are story books. We will be using 'Polar Animals' by Wade Cooper, and a National Geographic book called 'Penguins' by Anne Schreiber along with many more.

Learning Intentions:

- Use new vocabulary in different contexts
- Engage in non-fiction books.
- Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

Literacy

We will hook the children into developing their reading and writing through lots of theme-based activities. All areas of provision will have reading and writing opportunities.

Learning Intentions:

- Read some letter groups that represent one sound and say the sounds for them.
- Read a few common exception words (Bear Words) matched to the school's phonic programme.
- Re-read books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds (single sounds or special friends) and then writing the sounds with letters.
- Write short sentences and re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.

Mathematics

Lots of practical activities to continue to develop careful counting and a secure understanding of numbers above 5.

Conceptual subitizing – quickly seeing sub groups of numbers with in these larger numbers. Ordinality – knowing every number in 1-1 counting is one more than the last number. Part whole-3 is a part and 2 is a part the whole of me is 5.

We will also explore shape –spotting different shapes in the environment, learning the names and properties of 2D shapes e.g. straight or curved sides, number of sides and corners. Combining shapes to make other shapes, ordering size and matching shapes.

Learning Intentions:

- Compare the composition of numbers to 10
- Understand the 'one more than/ one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers
- Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills.

Physical Development

Children will be encouraged to be independent and confident in taking care of themselves and developing both their gross motor and fine motor skills.

Learning Intentions:

- Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing more control and grace
- Confidently and safely uses a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group
- Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient

Expressive Arts and Design

We will explore different creative materials to develop play scenes and pieces of art relating to the topic of winter and the Polar regions. They will be encouraged to use the new vocabulary they have been learning in their narratives.

Learning Intentions:

- Develop storylines in their pretend play.
- Use a variety of artistic effects to create realistic models and drawings of winter scenes and arctic and Antarctic animals.

Understanding the World

We will be using information texts and watching National Geographic clips on the internet to find out all about the Polar regions and learn about their similarities and differences.

What would it be like to live there? What would you need to survive? Who else lives there? etc

We will set up ice/ melting experiments, small world play and go on an arctic expedition to help bring this topic to life. (Here's hoping for some snow!)

Learning Intentions:

- Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past
- Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries
- Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.



Reception Songs and Rhymes



Five Little Snowflakes



5 little snowflakes flew round and round, round and round, round and round.

One little snowflake got, caught by the wind, it went floating, floating down.

4 little snowflakes....

3 little snowflakes.

2 little snowflakes.

1 little snowflakes.

OKI TOKI UNGA

Okki tokki unga, okki tokki unga,
Hey, missa day, missa doh, missa day.

Okki tokki unga, okki tokki unga,
Hey, missa day, missa doh, missa day.

Hexa cola misha woni
Hexa cola misha woni
Hexa cola misha woni

An old Inuit song, as they paddle through the ice and sea.



Chinese New Year song

Dragons, lions, red and gold.

In with the new year and out with the old.

Banners flying, bands playing. Lions prancing.

Dragons swaying.

Fireworks crackling. Lanterns swinging, people laughing, dancing singing.

Chinese New Year begins on the 17th February.

This year is the year of the horse

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/chinese-new-year>

Put your coat on song.

Put your coat on, put your coat on and make yourself nice and cosy.

Put your coat on, put your coat on and come along out to play.

Put the hat on.

Scarf.

Boots.

Gloves.





Home Learning

A Long, Long Way Away



Welcome back to school, it's great to have everybody back! Happy New Year 2026 and we hope you have all had a lovely, restful Christmas. This half term we will be finding out about places that are a long, long way away from where we live. We will be finding out about the North and South Polar regions and looking at how different they both are compared to where we live. We might even go on our own Polar expedition, with our Buddies in Year 6!

Our Spotlight books for this half term are going to be a focus on information books (Non-fiction) and we hope the children will develop lots of new vocabulary and learn lots of facts that they can share with you all.

The activities below relate to our topic and are for you and your child to talk about, choose and complete with your help at home and stick into the home learning book or photograph them and stick that in, making sure any work completed in the book is supervised. Please bring finished activities into school and we will share and talk about them with the rest of the class.

- Draw some of the animals that you might find at the North or South poles.
- Find out 3 facts about polar bears.
- Make paper snowflakes, can you catch a snowflake, or even draw one?
- Write some letters or numbers in the snow, or have a go at painting in the snow with food colouring.
- Go for a winter walk and draw, or photograph what you can see.
- Research different animal tracks and find, or make tracks in the snow/mud.
- Tell us your best recipe for hot chocolate, or can you draw it, write it so we can have a go too!
- Fill a balloon with water and leave it out on a cold night. What happens to it? Try adding colours to your water. What happens when the sun comes up?
- We have done lots of work on patterns, draw or make a winter pattern, or have a go at a repeating pattern.
- Make a winter picture or collage using 2D shapes, what will you include?
- Make a bird feeder for the birds in your own garden. Lots of recipes online.
- Make a winterhome for animals, such as hedgehogs, to shelter in.



Please feel free to think of your own creative ideas,
we really want to encourage everyone to take part in
home learning and have fun.



Please remember to practice your communication and language skills, phonics skills, Bear Words, Reading and your Writing at home, as often as you can.

For support with these please give us a shout.