

# Polar Experience and Story Fun

## Prime Areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum

### Communication and Language

Through 'Show and Tell', 'Circle Time' and other experiences we will continue to develop the children's ability to communicate with others and to take turns in conversations.



As we are gaining confidence in recognising and writing our sounds we will be putting this knowledge into practice through shared, guided and independent reading and writing. We will be sequencing familiar stories and creating our own stories.

At home: Rehearse your Polar themed show & tell.

### Physical Development



We will continue to develop our pencil control and fine motor skills. We will be using scissors and other tools to make models such as penguins and snow flakes.

In PE we will begin to explore the large apparatus in the hall learning to travel safely and using the equipment to travel in different ways.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We will be learning to understand our feelings, thinking especially about when we feel excited, happy and proud. We will also think of ways we can stand up for ourselves without hurting people's feelings.



We will continue to have regular check-ins where the children can talk about personal experiences.

## Specific Areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum

### Literacy

This term we will be using fiction and non-fiction books.

We will share stories about cold places and use information books to find out all about animals that live in cold places.



Children will use their home reading books and teacher-led guided reading sessions to practise blending sounds together they will also be encouraged to use pictures cues to support their reading.

Now we are gaining confidence in recognising and writing our sounds, we will be putting this knowledge into practice through shared, guided and independent reading and writing. We will be sequencing stories and have the opportunity to write our own 'winter animal' books.

We will be using The Gruffalo, The Gruffalo's Child and We're Going on a Bear Hunt to innovate stories and making them our own.

At home: Can you bring in a Polar themed story, poem or information book to share?



### Mathematics

The children will continue to learn to count reliably, recognise and order numerals to 10 and beyond.



We will be using the story book 'How big is a million' to explore number.

Using the story book 'How high is the sky?' we will explore measuring and use appropriate language related to measure.



We will be continuing to 'add' and 'subtract' two sets of objects and to 'partition' a given number. We will use our polar animals to help.

We will be solving practical problems and naming solid and flat shapes, such as circle, triangle, square, rectangle, cube, cone and sphere.

We will continue to develop the language used to compare two quantities using the words longer, taller, shorter, heavier, lighter, greater, smaller, more and less.



At home: Can you count 100 things into a tub and bring them into school?

### Understanding the World

In the computer suite we will develop our mouse control through drawing pictures and exploring programming games.



We will programme the Beebot to move forwards and backwards. We will begin to explore other ways of making him move.

We will be making model penguins and other model animals. The children will learn to plan their work, select appropriate resources and adapt their work where necessary. They will also learn to use tools safely and to co-operate with others.



Using pictures and video clips we will make comparisons between where we live and cold countries



We will learn how ice is formed and use our senses to explore it. We will make flavoured ice lollies and slushy ice drinks.

We will go on learning walks around the school grounds and look for changes and signs of spring. We are also going to plan a wellie walk in the local area.

In RE we will be thinking about determination and perseverance. Learning how we can make good choices.

At home: prepare a Polar themed show and tell.

### Expressive Art & Design

We will be exploring Shape, Space & Form through drawing and model making.

In music with Mrs Larthe on a Thursday we will continue to explore different songs and sounds using the Charanga music scheme.

Our role play area has already been transformed into 'Antarctica.' The children will be able to use this area to imagine what it would be like to live in a cold place.



Dear Chestnut Parents

**We would like to begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone for all our lovely Christmas cards and gifts.**

The children have come back to school with great enthusiasm and are beginning to settle back into school life.

We have thoroughly enjoyed hearing lots of exciting Christmas news and about the lovely gifts the children have received. The children have completed a piece of news writing about their Christmas holiday and we were really pleased with the 'have a go' attitude that all the children showed. They have made great progress since starting school.

We are really looking forward to our exciting new 'Polar Experience' topic. The children also seem very excited about it and they have already begun to share what they know about the North and South Poles.

***A while ago I asked if there were any parents who would be willing to take on the little project of building us an outdoor sandpit. We have cake sale funds from last year for this and I know the children would love a big sandpit to play and learn in. Are there any parents who would be willing to help with this? Maybe a little weekend project... I would provide the coffee and cake ☺!***

From Mrs Williams

### **Show and Tell**

This term we are going to continue to give each child the opportunity to take part in a 'show and tell'. [We have once again given each child a date on which they may bring something interesting in to show. \(see dates below\)](#) Our topic is Polar Experience and their show and tell should relate to this. Maybe a book linked to our topic, photos of a family holiday or experience in the snow, interesting facts or an activity we could all try etc.

### **Zoo Trip**

We are planning to book a class trip to Bristol Zoo. This will involve a 45 minute session where a polar explorer greets the group and takes them to an 'ice cave' to escape the roaring winds outside. We will be learn about:

- how animals and explorers survive in cold environments
- features of polar regions, including weather and locations
- the life of an Antarctic penguin through the seasons.

More information to follow soon.....

### **Poplar Experience**

If you, or someone you know, has visited a cold country it would be great to share this with the children. Please speak to Mrs Williams if you know anyone who would be able to come in.

### **Jolly Phonics & Keywords**

This term we will be learning lots of new digraphs (2 letters that make 1 sound i.e. 'ch'). The children will continue to bring home weekly phonics sheets for the sounds we have learnt. Please continue to return these to school on a Monday. **Regularly spending a couple of minutes going through your child's key words and sounds will also help them progress a lot more easily with their reading and writing.**

### **Reading**

Please remember to write in your child's Reading Record when you have heard them read at home; your feedback is very valuable. **We would like the children to be reading at least 4 times a week at home.** You don't need to write a comment every time just dating and signing is fine.

### **Chestnut Class Assembly**

**We will be having our class assembly to parents, grandparents and the whole school on 31<sup>st</sup> January at 2.45pm.**

### **Bessie Bear**

Poor Bessie Bear has not yet made it out of Mrs Williams' cupboard, but she is now ready and raring to go on some new adventures. [Please write Bessie a letter inviting her to your house!](#)