



Much of our learning in the next few weeks will be based along the theme of winter. During this topic children will become outside explorers and investigate how the world around us changes outside during winter. We will have muddy winter welly walks, create arctic dens and base camps and create warming winter soups and breads to help keep us warm on chilly days! We will have frost and ice experiments as we explore how materials change. Children will also learn about life in the Poles ...

### Physical Development

As children create dens and tents outside, just as real life explorers do, they will learn to

- handle equipment and tools effectively - including scissors, hole punches, staplers, string, canes when making dens

As children create assault courses children will learn ...

- about the importance of exercise and a healthy diet and ways to keep fit
- to travel under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment
- to jump off objects and land safely

*At home - Enjoy exploring the apparatus at the park, travelling over, under and through the equipment. Feel your hearts race as you exercise together and talk about the changes that happen when we exercise.*

Children will also continue to have opportunities

- to hold a pencil effectively to form recognisable letters.

*At home - Enjoy drawing together so that your child can develop a comfortable pencil grip in a relaxing way using large chalk and chunky pens.*

### Communication and Language

We will be sharing exciting wintry tales and rhymes and as well as learning amazing facts about the coldest places on the planet as well as the animals that live there. These opportunities will help us to learn to

- listen to others - in a range of situations
- listen to stories and talk about them, anticipating 'what might happen next?' as well as recalling what we have heard
- talk about our learning to our friends, sharing ideas, including relevant detail
- answer 'how' and 'why' questions about our experiences

*At home - Talk about stories and ask your child 'what might happen next? What do they like or dislike about the story? Enjoy a visit to the library to find a book! Bring non-fiction books about our topic and share the amazing facts that you have learnt.*

*Encourage your child to explain their thinking when talking about their ideas asking them 'why?'*

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

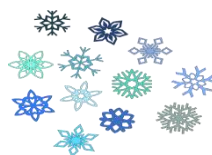
Children will have opportunities to

- make new relationships
- take turns with others
- take account of one another's ideas about how to organise an activity
- show sensitivity to needs and feelings of others
- choose the resources they need for their chosen activities

#### **At home...**

*Talk about how you feel or how others feel when your child has shown care, concern or kindness to others. Talk about characters in stories that you read and whether the actions of characters make others feel happy or cross. Discuss what you and your child would do. Talk about what we can do to make someone happy today!*

*Encourage and praise your child's efforts when trying new activities and when being independent - especially when using the toilet or getting dressed and putting on winter coats. Confident children become independent!*



## Expressive Arts and Design

Whether they are building explorers dens and tents or creating sledges, children will be developing their ability to

- use their imagination to create simple objects (such as camps, tents, sledges and other vehicles that travel over ice and snow)
- use simple tools and techniques (such as scissors, tape, staplers...) to assemble and join materials, adapting work where appropriate
- introduce a narrative in their play - creating stories in our very own arctic basecamp
- explore how to mix cold colours using illustrators as a starting point

*At home - look at pictures of sledges and snow vehicles together with your child and build or create a model or picture together. Bring it in to show us!*



## Mathematics

Children will be learning to

- count accurately - initially up to 20, though the sky is the limit!
- recognise and order quantities and numbers - again, initially up to 20 but the sky is the limit!
- say which is one more and one less than a number up to 20
- use words to describe the weight of objects - heavy/light, heavier/lighter (as we measure blocks of ice in our balance scales)
- use words to describe capacity - full, empty, half full

*At home - count everything - when tidying up, walking up the stairs...count down from 10 as you go for a walk or wait for something patiently, then try from 12, then from 13 keep going until you are counting down from 20 to 0! Go on a shape hunt around the house or at the playground - what shapes can you see?*



## Understanding the World

As our intrepid explorers venture outdoors they will have opportunities to...

- look closely at change - observing and discussing the seasonal changes that are happening around them while on our winter welly walks
- talk about similarities and differences in objects and materials - exploring ice - how can we make it melt really quickly? What will freeze and what won't?
- complete a programme on the computer (and create a wintry/snow image)
- select and use technology for particular uses (and take a photo of a model or piece of work, or take a photo of our outside adventures)
- give Beebot, our programmable to, a sequence of instructions to send it across the huge floor maps of cold places
- talk about similarities and differences in relation to where they live compared to The North or South Pole
- talk about the features of their own environment (using appropriate words such as 'village', 'town', 'road', 'path', 'flat', 'cottage', 'hill', 'field'..)

*At home - when you are out and about talk about how the weather changes in the winter. Talk about how what we wear changes in the winter as well as how to keep warm! Enjoy cooking a treat together at home. Ask your child about how the food or ingredients change during cooking. Try the following questions...*

*What can you see? What can you feel? What do you think will happen next? What will happen if we...?*

*Encourage your child to take photos of something they have done at home - send it in to share at school*

## Literacy

Every day children will read and write sounds in our daily phonics sessions.

Children will be learning to

- identify letter sounds and words
- blend sounds to read words
- spell three letter words
- write sentences with finger spaces in between the words.

*At home - look through the materials in your child's reading folder with them every day.*

