

Birkrigg – Spring 2

Welcome to a new half term. Our topic this half term continues to be **Pole to Pole** but this time we will focus on the Antarctic and Antarctic explorers. It is a busy half term as we also celebrate World Book Day and British Science Week in March.

Literacy

Phonics continues to be taught first thing in the morning with Year 1 and Reception being taught separately. Reading books will still be changed on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** for both Reception and Year 1 children. When you hear your child read, please comment in their reading record as it really helps us. Reading books more than once improves the children's fluency and if there are any questions in the back of their reading book, asking these will aid their comprehension.

In Literacy lessons, we will continue to use the *Pathways to Write* approach. Our key text this half term is *The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth* by Ellie Hattie. Year 1 children will continue to develop their sentence writing skills and will learn how to plan and write a story. The Reception children are becoming super writers! As usual they will have lots of opportunities to write using their phonic knowledge.

It is also World Book Day on Thursday 6th March which will be a celebration of our favourite books.

Maths

Like with Phonics, Maths continues to be taught separately to Reception and Year 1. Reception children will firstly finish their length, height and time unit. The time part of the unit focuses on the days of the week. Number work is extended to the number 10. We will explore the number bonds to 10, doubles to 10 and start to think about odd and even numbers. Finally we explore 3D shape as we approach the end of term.

We will cover three short Year 1 Maths blocks this half term. Our place value unit builds on the last unit which was working with numbers within 20. Now we will look at numbers within 50 and how we can partition numbers into tens and ones. Following this we have a unit about length and height, and one about mass and volume.

Science

Our topic continues to be 'animals including humans'. Firstly, we will think back to our trip to Brockhole and complete some follow up activities about the animals we talked about. Then we will turn to humans and name parts of the body and explore our senses on the field. As Spring approaches, we will think about seasonal changes.

British Science Week is in March, and we have a few things planned to include a live lesson from the NFU and a science investigation linked to melting ice.

Geography/History

Following on from our topic on the North Pole and the explorer Matthew Henson, we will look at the South Pole this term. First, we will recap the continents and oceans of the world before looking at why some parts of the world are hot and some are cold. We will then explore what it is like in Antarctica before focusing on the explorers Shackleton and Scott.

RE

Our topic is Easter; we will be looking at symbols and things that we associate with Easter. We will look at the key events that took place and think about how Easter is celebrated. We will also look for signs of new life in Spring and how this is reflected at Easter.

PSE

Our topic is still 'Living in the wider world'. We will think about how we use the internet and remember back to what we learnt about Safer Internet Day on 11th February. We will then learn about jobs people do, including people who help us in the community. As part of this, we are hoping to visit Church Walk Vets.

Music

This half term our unit is Round and Round. We will learn a new song whilst continuing to explore dimensions of music such as pulse, rhythm and pitch.

Art and Design

We have a number of projects planned for Art this half term including drawing animals, creating a 'junk-model' animal and painting with ice! Some of our Art will have links with Science Week.

Computing

Our unit is Maze Explorers. The children will explore the '2Go' app on Purple Mash whilst building on what they learned last term about creating, debugging and following algorithms.

PE

We have two PE times, **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. On Tuesday we will continue our gymnastics unit Rock and Roll, putting together some of the rocking and rolling movements we have practised to create simple sequences. Following this, we will focus on dance, linking this with our topic on Antarctica. On Thursdays we will continue the gymnastics unit, 'Jumping Jacks', that we started in the autumn where children learn different types of jumps and how to land safely when jumping off low apparatus. This was planned for last half term, but we didn't complete it because Cam was working with the children teaching various multi-skills.

On PE days long hair should be tied back, and earrings removed or covered.

Weather permitting, Reception children will be able to use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and the whole class will get out onto the school field when we can.

Please can you ensure that your child always has a waterproof coat in school. A pair of wellies would also be very useful.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to come and speak to us.

Miss Turner and Mrs Jessop