

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Finches

Spring 2015



Our Themes: Antarctica

People who help us

Our Key Values:

Caring, Commitment to Achieve, Co-operation,
Fairness, Honesty & Respect



Welcome back to our second term. We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year. We shall be continuing to plan through topics based on the children's interests as they arise to ensure that their learning is inspiring and relevant. The children have become very good at taking charge of their own learning and we shall continue to encourage this. Here we shall give you an overview of some of the topics we plan to cover this term, and as new ones arise this will be reflected in the weekly sheet in your child's homework book.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Throughout the term we shall be looking at people who help us at home, school and the wider community and incorporating some visitors and local visits. We shall be encouraging children to play co-operatively and encouraging them to think of their own group games and activities that involve sharing and turn taking. The children are aware of our School's Key Values and we shall be looking at these in much more detail this term, identifying and praising when we see examples of these being followed.

Physical development

This term we will be covering movement, co-ordination and self awareness. We will be developing our skills on the equipment including the climbing frame and soft play gymnastics equipment. We will be learning about the effects of exercise on our body, noticing when we get warmer and breathe heavier. We shall also be developing our fine motor skills including pencil grip to ensure that we are able to control the pencil well and form clearer well sized and orientated letters.

Communication and Language

We shall be having a variety of role play areas this term linking to the theme 'People who help us.' We will be able to take on different roles and use talk to act out scenarios. We will think about questions that they would ask or be asked and sensible answers. We will be working on developing a dialogue or conversation with each other to build up a story.

Literacy

We will be working on our Writing targets through each topic and as we achieve this we will be able to work on the next target up. We will be remembering that after we have written one word we leave a finger space before we write the next one. We shall be continuing with our daily phonics lesson. We have learnt all of our single graphemes and are now learning phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs. Some children will begin learning strategies for reading and writing longer words by breaking them up. We will be looking at the genre of non-fiction books and understanding that these are for finding out information. When discussing fiction and non-fiction books we will be encouraging children to use vocabulary such as 'title' 'front cover' and 'contents page.'

Mathematics

We shall be continuing to consolidate our knowledge of numbers by securing good counting skills and number recognition. We shall be moving on to calculations beginning with addition. We will begin by using practical resources to add two amounts together and count the total. We will be learning how to write this down using the + and = sign.

We shall then move onto subtraction, again using practical resources to take an amount away and count how many are left. We will learn to write this down using the – and + sign.

We shall continuously be ensuring that other areas of Mathematics remain fresh in the children's minds e.g. shape, measure and pattern.

Understanding of the world

We shall be learning about the signs of winter by going outside to observe and photograph the changing weather and environment.

We will be looking at the environment in the Antarctica and comparing this to our own country including finding them on a globe. We will be looking at the weather and the animals that live there. We shall be focussing on penguins, learning about how they survive in the cold, how baby penguins are cared for by their mummy and daddy and what they eat etc.

Within our topic of 'People who help us' we shall be learning about different occupations and places of work particularly in Market Rasen.

Expressive arts and design.

We shall be continuing to encourage children to develop their own creative ideas by always having a wide range of media and materials available for them to access as they choose. We will also be encouraging children to select different resources and combining them, for example if doing a painting they could also find some material or paper to stick on, or choose boxes or containers to create a 3D model.

During the Antarctica theme we shall be thinking of many different ways of creating penguins for example, hand printing, collaging, painting, cutting and sticking.

Important Information

As per the school homework policy which is available at www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk homework will be set on Wednesday and returned on Monday. The homework we set will be fun and creative for you to enjoy with your child at home. Please add a comment in your child's homework book to let me know how they got on with it. If there are any issues with the homework, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Our P.E days are: Tuesday with Mr Toothill

and Monday or Thursday with Miss Smith

Please could you send in pictures representing your child's particular interests/hobbies to update our interest board so we are able to use this when planning activities? This could be pictures out of a catalogue, a photo of your child doing something they enjoy or a drawing.

As always, we appreciate contributions from home for your child's learning journey. We often use comments you have added in their homework book to add to this but please feel free to write things which aren't relevant to the homework e.g. if you have noticed them do or say something for the first time or reach a particular milestone. Anything which has made you think 'wow!'

Any help which you can offer in the classroom is always greatly appreciated no matter what length of time or how regularly, for example, hearing children read or helping with activities. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping out.

We are looking forward to a great Spring term. Please feel free to come and see me with any concerns or issues at all.

Miss Smith