

Reception learning overview Spring 1

This half term in our **Polar and Chinese New Year** topic we will be...

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Playing in the class role play areas – an Arctic and Antarctic explorer's station, an igloo and later a Chinese Restaurant
- Using our magpie word boards to explore the meaning of new or unusual words with the children
- Focusing on answering 'how' and 'why' questions as we explore non-fiction texts about Arctic and Antarctic animals
- Learning digraphs, (2 letters that make 1 sound) e.g. 'sh' 'th' 'ch' 'ee'
- Introducing the children to some more tricky words, where we cannot rely on phonics to help us read them and must read them on sight e.g. they, we, are, you
- Creating a class non-fiction book about Polar animals as we research and write our own non-fiction sentences



How you can help at home

- Share the reading books which are sent home. Remember to listen to your child read at least 4 times a week at home each week and record in the green reading diary.
- Continue to practise the letter sounds which are sent home, using them to build words and practise blending
- Practise reading and spelling the tricky words which will be sent home in the zippy wallet
- Complete the talking homework activities

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

- Continuing to learn about the UNCR Rights of the Child
- Listening to each other's ideas about how to organise activities and being sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- Talking about behaviour, its consequences, and learning about acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- Talking about setting goals and exploring ways to achieve these goals.



Expressive Arts and Design

- Using and exploring a variety of materials, tools and techniques to representations of polar animals
- Using watercolours to explore cold colour
- Exploring tuned and untuned percussion instruments



Mathematics

- Subitising to 5 – recognising how many there are in a group of objects without the need to count
- Recognising numbers to 9 and recognising different representations of these numbers e.g. counting objects, pictures and numerals
- Ordering numbers 0-5 or 0 - 9
- Looking at number bonds to 5, pairs of number that total 5 e.g. 3 and 2, 4 and 1 etc.
- Combining two groups to find the whole

How you can help at home

- Ask your child what they see and how they see it. They may see 3 peas on their plate and not need to count them!
- Continuing to count items around the house e.g. pasta shapes, stairs, socks and cutlery
- Adding using objects and encouraging your child to come up with their own way to record this, e.g. numbers or drawing pictures
- Looking for numbers that go together to make 5
- Ordering numbers



Understanding the World

- Comparing the Polar environment with our own local environment and what it means for the animals that live there
- Investigating freezing and melting
- Finding out about the life-cycle of a penguin
- Learning about Chinese New Year and its traditions
- Learning about Jesus and the stories he told



Physical Development

- Continuing to focus on gross motor skills, e.g. using the climbing frame, riding scooters and bikes
- Completing fine motor skill activities e.g. threading, using tweezers and mark making with developing pencil control
- Using resources provided for building dens and forts
- Continuing weekly PE lessons focussing on balance and dance



YR Spring 1 Polar topic

Key knowledge about Polar regions

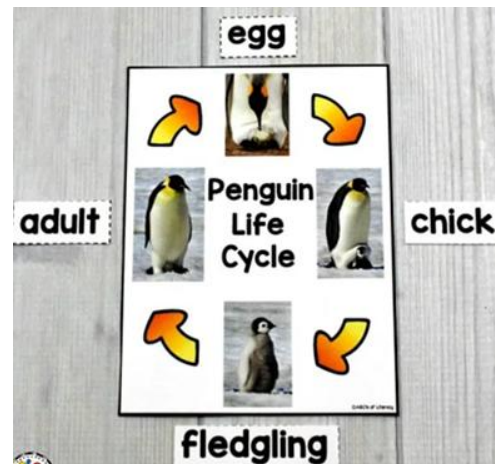
- The Polar Regions are two snowy places at the top and bottom of the earth
- They are called the Arctic (North Pole) and Antarctica (South Pole)
- Polar bears live in the North Pole (Arctic) and never meet penguins which live in the South Pole (Antarctica)
- People travel around using sledges pulled by husky dogs or on snowmobiles
- There are lots of animals in the Polar Regions and they have thick fur to keep them warm
- Many of them also have a layer of blubber underneath their fur to keep them warm
- Some of the animals are white in colour so that they are camouflaged against the snow



Useful Words



Life-cycle of a penguin



Key Vocabulary

Life cycle	The stages in the life of an animal.
Habitat	A place where an animal or plant lives.
Iceberg	Pieces of ice which have broken off and are floating in the ocean.
Blubber	A layer of fat underneath an animal's skin.
Camouflage	Colours or patterns on an animal that help it to blend in.

Things to try at home

- Draw a picture of a polar animal and label it
- Find some facts about Polar Regions
- Use different containers to make your own icebergs. How long do they take to melt?
- Go outside and look for animals in your garden. Are they camouflaged?