



Welcome back, everyone! Our topic this Spring term is a Geography and Science based one entitled "Polar Opposites!"

In English the children will be given many varied and exciting writing opportunities, including creating their own explorers' club and writing a set of rules for it in the style of Alex Bell. They will write various diary entries from different character perspectives and points of view, as well as a 'how-to' guide for keeping polar bears, polar region animal factfiles for classroom display, a menu for their ideal birthday breakfast and a school prospectus for the finishing school to which Agatha proposes to send Stella. They will also write a newsletter amongst the various explorers' clubs, detailing that The Polar Bear Explorers' Club is going to allow a girl to come with them for the very first time.

In Science, the children will be taught to compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets; know that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution; use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating; give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic; demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes and explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda. The children will also be given the chance to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago, as well as recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents, and identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

In Maths the children in Years 5 and 6 will be covering the areas of: consolidating work on fractions, ratio, decimals and percentages, algebra, measuring and converting units, perimeter, area and volume and statistics.

In PSHE children will be given opportunities to answer a range of philosophical "Big Questions".

In Art and D.T. lessons, the children will be given the opportunity to use a range of art media to draw and paint different animals from polar regions and hot climates/regions. Children will have the opportunity to plan/design and build mini-igloos. Children will plan and make their own survival kits for freezing climates.

In P.E. they will take part in small-sided invasion games, as well as indoor dance and gymnastics linked to the topic.

In Music lessons children will have the opportunity to explore composing and performing music linked with listening to Vivaldi's "Four Seasons".

In R.E. children will be answering key questions, such as: "How can religious codes of conduct effect lives?" and "How is the life of Jesus relevant today?"

In Computing children will have the opportunity to plan and make their own films, as well as plan and make their own scratch animated stories.

In Geography the children will locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities; identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night); understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America, as well as studying climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts in contrasting regions/areas. The children will have the chance to use and look at maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

Oak class will have a talk from a visitor, Paul Ullson, as well as going on a Curricular Trip linked to Geography and Science. The children will also have on-going Home-Learning Tasks during the Spring term.

### Homework

Homework will be given out on a **Wednesday** and be expected back the following **Tuesday**.

Homework will include spellings, reading, times tables, other work in English and Mathematics. Occasionally some topic work or a research project will be sent out too.

### Reminders

Please could the children remember to bring a pair of wellingtons to school for the field when it gets wet.

Please could the children remember to bring in their **reading log and reading book every day**.

Please could the children be prompt handing back their homework books.

### P.E. Kits

P.E. will be on a **Monday and Friday afternoon**. Please could the children remember a sweat-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, shorts, gloves and a change of trainers every week.