

Reception Newsletter

Happy New Year! We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas break!

Our key high-quality text this half term



BLUE PENGUIN

Blue Penguin
By Petr Horacek

Literacy

This half term our Literacy sessions will be focused around the text 'Blue Penguin' by Petr Horacek. We will be exploring the setting of Antarctica and developing our vocabulary in order to describe different creatures that live there and what the environment is like. We will be investigating the difference between fact and fiction and will be finding out information from different sources, using books and computers. We will be sharing lots of different texts related to 'Blue Penguin' and are always keen to read new ones! Please feel free to bring any books you have at home about Antarctica in to share with the class!

Reading & Phonics

This half term we will be continuing with our learning of Phase 3 phonics which will include more 'digraphs' and 'trigraphs', which are two or three letters that make a sound when next to each other eg. 'ee', 'igh', 'sh'. These sounds can be more difficult to spot within words, so we will be engaging in activities to identify the sounds within words and sentences and encouraging the children to continue to blend sounds together.

We will be continuing to send home digraphs in your child's sound book for you to practise at home. Regular practise of these sounds has a direct impact on your child's confidence when reading! Reading books will continue to be sent home throughout the half term on a weekly basis or at a pace that suits your child.

We will be engaging in focused guided reading sessions on a weekly basis this half term. During these sessions, we will be continuing to practise our blending skills, looking out for digraphs and 'tricky words' within the text and developing our inference and comprehension skills. We are continually developing our story language and vocabulary, exploring the meaning of new words and looking for clues about the story in the pictures. Pictures often give the text further meaning, so we are developing our ability to use the pictures to aid our understanding of trickier texts!

Our library sessions in The Den will now take place on a Monday.

Fine Motor Skills & Writing

This half term we are continuing to develop our dexterity and fine motor skills in order to be confident, happy writers! We are using our fine motor skills to complete fiddly tasks and activities and apply these skills to our writing. We are developing our letter formations and practising writing them correctly within our writing. We are encouraging the children to write for purpose and in contexts that are meaningful to them. We are using writing across the curriculum and within all continuous provision areas within the indoor and outdoor classrooms. When writing, we encourage the children to use their voice and ears as much as possible! We are practising breaking the flow of speech into words in order to write simple sentences, and are beginning to use finger spaces, capital letters and full stops.



Maths

This half term in Maths we will be continuing to consolidate our counting skills and number recognition for numbers to 10 and then 20. We will be investigating different representations of number, including money, and practising counting objects that may be in an irregular pattern or are unable to be moved. Later in the half term, we will be applying our number skills to begin exploring the concept of addition and how we can combine quantities to make a larger number. We will be using a range of resources for our addition skills, including counters, Numicon and number lines. We will be linking our learning on addition of quantities to capacity and investigating how we can manipulate volume.

General Information

- *Outdoor learning – A huge thank you for all of the wellies that have been sent into school so promptly. This has ensured we can begin our outdoor learning without problem. We will be taking part in outdoor learning in all weathers so please ensure your child comes to school in a suitable coat, ideally waterproof and with a hood!
- *Please double check that your child's shoes are clearly labelled with their name. We will be changing shoes for wellies on a daily basis and we endeavour to avoid any mix ups!
- *Our library sessions in The Den have now changed to a Monday. Please ensure your child's library book is in their bookbag on a Monday.
- *Homework will continue to be sent home on a Friday. Please return your child's homework to school by the following Wednesday. Please feel free to make any comments or notes about how your child found their homework in their homework book!
- *Reading books will continue to be changed on a weekly basis where appropriate. We will read individually with your child at regular intervals throughout the half term and your child will take part in a weekly focused reading session in a small group. Please continue to write your comments about your child's reading at home in their planner.
- *If you wish for your child to change from school dinners to packed lunches or vice versa, please give the office two weeks' notice of this change.
- *Please remember to send a labelled water bottle into school for your child. The children have free access to the water machine throughout the day to refill their bottle.

Class Targets

- * to follow instructions involving a two part sequence
- * to develop correct letter formations when writing independently eg. writing name.
- * to begin to develop perseverance skills and strategies when 'stuck'

Wider Curriculum

In relation to our key text *Blue Penguin* we will be focusing our scientific exploration around freezing and melting. We will be problem solving and working collaboratively to make predictions and carry out investigations. We have already begun to access our new outdoor learning environment and we will be exploring floating and sinking in our riverbed! We will be using a variety of tools and equipment to engage in creative activities linked to Antarctica and will be working on developing our own ideas, creating for a purpose and evaluating our work. We will be enjoying lots of role play in our indoor ice cream parlour and our polar explorers campsite outdoor too!

Challenges

This half term we will be introducing weekly challenges into our independent learning time. We are continually promoting a positive attitude towards learning and encouraging the children to lead their own learning. We will be developing strategies for perseverance and to help us when we are finding things tricky, and celebrating being 'stuck' as an opportunity to learn something new!

Thank you for your continuing support at home.

Miss Williams & Mrs Borders