






## Kestrel's Newsletter Spring Term 2018

I hope you all had a lovely break over the Christmas holiday. We have had a fantastic start to the new term and are looking forward to lots of fun and exciting learning opportunities to come.

Please see below for an overview of the work we will be doing over the Spring term.

<b>English</b> 	This term we will be using a variety of texts and stories to stimulate learning including 'The Rainbow Bear' by Michael Morpurgo. Some of the children's writing will relate to our topic on the polar regions and will include explanations, reports, letters and diary writing. Each week the children will also be working on key grammar skills and spelling rules. There will also be weekly guided reading sessions.
<b>Maths</b> 	Each day the children will take part in a daily Mathematics session. Maths will again be an important part of our geography and science work this term. As part of our topic work we will be recording the weather and then representing the data we collect in graphs. As we investigate the weather in the polar regions, the children will also be working with negative numbers.
<b>Science</b> 	This term science lessons will focus on scientific enquiry. Using the weather as a stimulus, the children will develop a weather station and work scientifically to collect data on weather temperature, wind speed, wind direction, rainfall and snowfall. They will undertake experiments relating to the weather we experience during the term. As part of their work on polar animals, the children will also investigate habitats and food chains, as well as looking at how animals adapt to their environment. We will be exploring forces including; friction and magnetic. We will be focusing on multiplication skills and develop our written methods as well as developing our knowledge of fractions and introducing decimals.
<b>Computing</b> 	This term's lessons will be focusing on using materials from Purple Mash to support our work in computing. The children will be focusing on coding for the first half term using 2Code to write programmes. After half term, the children will continue to develop their understanding of e-safety by planning resources to help others understand online safety, they will decide on key messages and create an online safety presentation using 2Connect. The children will also be developing their computer skills in a variety of different ways in other curriculum areas, they will develop their skills in locating and searching effectively for information related to a topic, assessing whether the information is true and reliable, presenting their work in different formats.
<b>Geography</b> 	This term we will be learning about the polar regions. As well as investigating the physical and human geographical features of the Arctic and Antarctic we will also investigate our own weather. An Arctic explorer will be visiting school to share his adventures. Also we will be looking at the environmental changes that have affected these regions in recent years.
<b>History</b>	In the second half of the term we will look at key polar explorers including Captain Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen and visiting the Scott polar research museum in Cambridge.
<b>Art &amp;</b> 	Our topic this term will provide opportunities for improving the children's painting and collage skills. They will develop their colour mixing skills and apply these by painting a polar landscape. If the weather is suitable we also hope to make snow sculptures and ice decorations, using nature in art.

<b>Design Technology</b>	<p>In DT the children will investigate vehicles designed to travel through Arctic conditions. We will use the recently commissioned RRS Sir David Attenborough and its automated submersible Boaty McBoatface to inspire our own designs for polar research ships.</p>
<b>Music</b> 	<p>We will be inspired by the music of Vivaldi and Winter from his Four Seasons compositions. The children will be responding to the music they here in words and pictures as well as composing their own music using their own graphic score. There will be lots of opportunities to improve their singing and performance skills as we prepare for our year 3 / 4 musical at the end of term.</p>
<b>PSHE</b> 	<p>We will be focusing on "working together" and "me and my relationships". We will develop the skills needed to work successfully as part of a team and apply these in our everyday classroom practise.</p>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<p>This half term the children will be focusing on dance using the theme of cold places to inspire us. Our outdoor PE lessons will focus on hockey and netball skills, developing control and team work skills building up to playing small sided matches. After half term the children will receive coaching in football skills from Hunts School Sports team, whilst our indoor PE will be gymnastics using both large and small apparatus, developing sequences, practising and refining our moves. Please make sure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school each day.</p>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<p>This term will focus on religious books including the old and new testament of the Bible.</p>
<b>MFL</b> 	<p>This term we will continue to learn German as part of our whole school modern foreign language programme. The focus will be on numbers and birthdays and then asking and responding to simple questions in German. We will also revise some vocabulary previously learnt, through these topics. The children will learn through games, role play and songs.</p>
<b>Other Information</b>	<p>Home learning will follow the same format as last term. There will also be a new fortnightly task where the children will have the opportunity to extend their learning at home in a creative manner. Details will be posted on the kestrel's class page of the school website.</p>

And finally...

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Mrs Amy MacLennan*