

Our topic for this term is "Amazing Antarctica & Penguins"

I hope the following information is useful in supporting your child in his or her work at school and at home. The children in Class 3 will get homework once a week; this will be given on a Friday and should be returned on the following Tuesday. This will be linked to work done in class that week; it could be Literacy, Mathematics or Topic based. I also would encourage them to practise their spellings and times tables at home, as well as reading to an adult as much as possible. I do not mind what they read at home, it does not have to be their reading book. However, if you could log it in their reading records and sign, that would be brilliant! Thank you.

Miss Clark

Literacy

Our fiction lessons will be based around the story 'Penguin Small' and the children will be doing a lot of work on the characters and mapping their emotions. We will be working up to create our own version of the story, concentrating on using excellent description to describe both the characters and the setting. Our non-fiction topic will be non-chronological reports. Each child will be given a penguin to research and then will work with a partner to create a non-chronological report as a PowerPoint, using all the features looked at. We will also be creating shape poetry and calligrams. During lessons, the children will be given opportunities to improve their speaking and listening skills through role play and hot seating. They also will be continuing with their guided reading sessions three times a week, 'Book Talk'. This encourages the children to read as a group, with a partner and individually and to talk about their book using specific questioning linked to the assessment criteria.

Mathematics

The children will develop their mathematical skills, working at a level which is appropriately challenging for their ability, focusing on a new scheme of work called 'white rose maths'. This scheme allows the children to focus more on developing their knowledge through problem solving and reasoning. Both year groups will start with a block on multiplication and division. The children will learn written methods as well as using their times tables knowledge to help them with mental arithmetic. Year 3 will go on to looking at money- adding and subtracting money and giving change. Then there will be a focus on statistics- pictograms, tables and bar charts. Measurement- measuring length, converting mm and cm, measuring perimeter and then fractions- tenths and finding fractions of a set of objects. Year 4 will move on to looking at area- comparing and finding the area of rectangles and compound shapes, fractions- equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and problem solving based on fractions and finally looking at decimals- recognising tenths and hundredths.

Science

The science topics for this term are 'keeping warm' and 'magnets and springs'. The children will be designing and making their own 'water-bottle' penguin and will be learning about thermal insulators to keep it warm. They will be looking at the water cycle and plotting temperatures on line graphs.

Information and Communication Technology

The children will be using the internet to research their given type of penguin and then will be using PowerPoint to create their own non-chronological report. They will also be focusing on storing, retrieving and manipulating information.

Religious Education

Our topic will be faith founders. This will involve investigating the lives of key figures and founders in the major world faiths with reference to their significance for faith members. The children will be able to share their thoughts about a story of a faith founder and express their thoughts about how the teaching of a faith founder influences believers. As part of our Christianity focus- we will be looking at Gospel and 'what kind of world would Jesus want?'

There will also be a focus on Easter.

MFL

Focusing on French, the children will be looking at numbers, age, adjectives, connectives, days of the week and they will start to give opinions about colours and animals. Using the Ilanguages programme, the children are beginning to not only be able to say sentences in French but also write the sentences themselves.

Topic work- History and Geography

With our topic being Antarctica, we will be focusing more on Geography this term. The children will learn about the different continents of the world, using atlases and maps to help them. They will also learn about the equator and the different extremes of weather, thinking about how we adapt to these. The children will also be locating the different countries the penguins live in on a map. We will be looking at the animals living in Antarctica and also the history behind the continent being founded and the first person to ever visit.

Art & Design Technology

We will be looking at different kinds of pop art, particularly focusing on Andy Warhol. The children will be learning how to draw a self-portrait of themselves and will create their own Andy Warhol style piece of art work. The children will also be using a variety of different media to create penguin masks, life-size penguin paintings and either a Modroc penguin or a puppet.

Music

The year 4 children will be learning the guitar once a week on a Tuesday. They will also be finding out about the composer- Mozart and listening to some of his music.

Physical Education

The children will be taking part in circuit training activities and multi-skills. This will include lots of ball skills, as well as coordination and spatial awareness. They will also be a dance unit called 'we are the explorers'.

PSHCE

There will be a focus on our new PSHE programme 'Laughology: happy centred schools'. Our first topic within this programme is based around learning strategies to cope with different situations. The children are given time to take part in circle times and any issues in school are discussed during these times.