

St Thomas More R.C. Primary - Early Years
What I am Learning - Spring I: Frozen Planet



Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
Communication & Language	<p>This half term we will be continuing to develop our listening skills through circle time activities and our focused carpet sessions. We will be talking about our new theme 'Frozen Planet', and exploring, developing an understanding and using new vocabulary linked to our theme. We will be encouraging the children to describe events, ask questions to further their own understanding and use the new vocabulary. We will be using several key texts throughout the half term linked to our theme and we will be encouraging the children to describe characters, settings and also to discuss the changes on our planet, how we can protect our planet and link our ideas with Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si.'</p>	Mathematics	<p>Nursery - We will be continuing our daily maths sessions following the White Rose Maths Scheme. This half term we will be focussing on continuing with the early stages of seeing quantities of numbers (subitising), counting and labelling amounts and exploring position and routes.</p> <p>Reception - We will continue our daily maths sessions following the NCETM scheme. This half term we will be focussing on subitising, showing quantities, number recognition and ordering numerals, more than/fewer than and partitioning numbers.</p>
Physical Development	<p>We will be continuing to focus upon develop the children's fine and gross motor skills through our Dough Disco, Wiggle me into a Squiggler and Squiggle while you Wiggle sessions and through different activities linked to our theme. We will continue to encourage the children to take more independence in managing their own belongings and personal care, aiming for the children to be able to put on and take off their own coats and store them on their pegs. We would really appreciate your support with self help and care skills at home. For Reception children, our PE our focus will be 'Basic Movements and Dance.'</p>	Understanding the World	<p>We will continue to look at changes in our environment and seasonal changes and explore 'Winter' (hopefully we will have some snow and chilly conditions for some ice investigations!).</p> <p>We will also be exploring simple maps (linking with our theme and key texts) and using technology and software to look at maps and explore them in detail. We will be creating our own simple maps in a variety of ways.</p> <p>We will research and find out information about our theme 'Frozen Planet' and explore the polar regions, talk about similarities and differences and research different polar animals and their habitats. We will also explore the work of Sir David Attenborough and how he has dedicated his life to finding out about our planet. We will spend some time focussing on 'Aurora Borealis' and researching why this natural light show happens on our planet!</p>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<p>We will continue to reinforce our positive class rules and boundaries. We will continue with circle time activities, modelling positive behaviours/friendships and discussing different aspects of our feelings. We will continue to explore our three school rules in more detail - Ready, Respectful & Safe and introduce our daily Recognition Board. We will also be working on the 'MyHappyMind' weekly sessions and further exploring our brains! Through our Religion work, we will be exploring the Epiphany, the</p>	Expressive Arts & Design	<p>We will be experimenting with different materials and creative techniques this half term. We will be exploring different paint techniques and using different medium whilst we paint e.g. ice painting. We will also explore the artists Frederic Church, Anna Boberg and Edward Much as we create our own interpretations of 'Aurora Borealis' with different media and materials.</p>

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	Presentation Story, discussing how the Parish Family celebrates, how the Parish family gather for Mass, and we will also discuss the joy of gathering to listen to God's Word		
Literacy	<p>We will be exploring lots of key texts (Fiction and non-fiction) during this half term linked to our theme. We will be talking about stories, the characters, settings and making comparisons about different places on our planet. We will also be focussing on learning lots of new words linked to our theme and discussing the different polar animals and their habitats. We will be exploring different mark making and writing opportunities this half term linked to our theme e.g. describing 'Pip Pip' the penguin, Frozen fact files and labelling and creating maps. For Reception children, we will be encouraging them to use their phonic skills in their independent writing and write CVC words and captions.</p> <p>Nursery children will continue indiscreet phonics - Phase 1, focussing on exploring 'body percussion.'</p> <p>Reception children will continue with their daily RWI Phonics sessions - links to the RWI Virtual Classroom sessions to support the daily lesson added to Tapestry weekly.</p>	RE	<p>During this half term, we will be exploring the Epiphany, the Presentation Story, discussing how the Parish Family celebrates, how the Parish family gather for Mass and we will also discuss the joy of gathering to listen to God's Word</p> <p>We will also be exploring the late Pope Francis' letter 'Laudato Si' where he asked and urged us all to care for our common home and we will be exploring the different ways we can look after our planet and help to reduce climate change.</p>