



Topic Title: Antarctica (Spring 1) Dinosaurs (Spring 2)

This term we will be focusing on non-fiction texts and comparing fact and fiction books. This will be developed through both topics this term. In Spring 1 we will be discovering what life is like in the Antarctic by discovering what lives there and how they survive the harsh weather and landscapes. We will be exploring the stories 'Lost and found' and Blue Penguin' to support our fact-finding focus.

Children will be learning how to:

- Find the Antarctic on a map.
- What the weather is like in the South pole.
- Freeze and melt ice.
- Penguins live in the South Pole, they eat fish and keep warm by huddling in groups.
- Penguins hatch from an egg.
- Write a fact file.
- Write a letter to a sad penguin.

In Spring 2 we will continue to learn from fact books but with a focus on history. We will be discovering that Dinosaurs really did walk the earth a long, long time ago. We will also be reading the story 'The Dinosaur that poop a planet' to show how fiction books are very different to fact.

Children will be learning how to:

- Categorise the dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals into herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.
- Explore fossils and make their own fossil out of clay.
- Use fact books to discover what animals are extinct.
- Make links between features of dinosaur's habitats and their habits.
- Be a paleontologist to identify dinosaurs from their bones.
- Write simple sentences to describe what dinosaurs ate.

Maths

In Maths, we will continue to develop children's number sense exploring the composition of numbers 0-8.

Children will be learning to:

- Add and subtract numbers within 5.
- Automatically recall number bonds to 5.
- Identify addition facts for the number 5.
- Compare numbers 0-8.
- Represent number 0-8 on a tens frame.

Phonics

As you may already be aware we have made some changes to our phonics teaching with the introduction of **Essential Letters & Sounds**. This method of learning to read is very similar to what children have already experienced. The main difference is that the pace of the progression is quite fast with the view of keep up not catch up. You may find that your child comes home with a book that is much more difficult than they were reading before the holidays. This is because all reading books will now be linked to the sounds being taught in class that week. Some children may be receiving extra Phonics session in order to keep up with the expectations of the Reception year. Please ensure that your child has regular opportunities to practice reading at home.

Homework Expectations:

- Reading at least 4 times per week- please ensure that this is recorded in your child's reading record with a date and initials of the person they read to. If children read 4 times per week, they move up the reading rainbow and receive a prize at the end of the term.
- Share a book with your child to promote reading for pleasure. We will continue to send home weekly library books to support this.
- We will not be using the phonics homework book with the new program. Instead, I will be sending out videos on Tapestry through out the term. Approx. once every two weeks.
- Children can take part in additional phonics practice using 'Teach you monster to read'. All children were given an account at the beginning of the year and details of this are in your child's home learning books and reading records.
- In Spring 2 we will be introducing Numbots for all reception children to practice their maths skills at home. More information to follow in Spring 2.

Additional Information & Reminders:

- Please ensure that your child has a reading book in school every day. Reading books will be collected in on Thursday's for changing and returning on Friday's.