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"Be the best that you can be"

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## Reception Autumn 2 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a fantastic week. The Reception teachers have been busy preparing for our new, exciting topic. We are fast approaching our favorite time of the year...Christmas! So naturally we will be covering a topic all about winter. The children will create a winter wonderland in our classroom and learn all about winter animals, dressing for different seasons and which animals live in the Arctic and Antarctic. The topic will finish with festive celebrations and a traditional look at the Christmas story.

### **What is it like in a Winter Wonderland?**

**Week 1:** Why are Rama and Sita so special? Our first week will look at celebrations focussing on Diwali. The children will love exploring how different cultures celebrate, by comparing to our own traditions. We will use our different senses to explore the beautiful celebration. We will be tasting different 'celebratory' foods. If you do not wish for your child to take part, please let us know.

**Week 2:** Where can we find Winter Wonderlands? We begin the winter topic by looking at cold climates and what we need to take with us.

**Week 3:** How do penguins keep their eggs warm? The children will love learning about the harsh environments that different types of penguins live and how they stay alive.

**Week 4:** Could penguins and polar bears be friends? This week will be comparing different environments these animals live in and how they are different from our own and each other. We will also be visiting the church this week to learn about symbols and meaningful artefacts within the church. Details to follow.

**Week 5:** Where do animals go in winter? With the help of Henry Hedgehog, we will learn more about hibernation and how we can help animals during the winter months. (Sshhh! It's a secret, but this week the children will also be visiting a very jolly man in a red suit. We will be visiting him at Birches Valley in Cannock. Details of this have already been sent out. Please make sure you have returned your consent slip and made payment via ParentPay.

**Week 6:** What makes Christmas special? This is by far one our favourite weeks, as the children learn all about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. On the 12<sup>th</sup> December we will hold our Christmas sing-along. Details of times will be sent out later in the term.

**Week 7:** Reflection week. A lovely end to the term sharing our favourite parts of the topic. The school disco will also be this week. Details will be sent out at a later date and can be paid for via ParentPay.



Daily maths and phonics will continue in school. We value the support we have from home. Please keep up with the daily reading. As per this term, the books will be changed on a Friday. Please read every day and continue to practice the phonics and common exception words we sent out in the Phonics hand book. These books are for your information and do not need to come in to school. Write a comment in the diary to show what you have practiced. We will send out a dojo message to you highlighting what your child is working on in their phonics group. Each child learns at a different pace. Our thorough monitoring allows us to track the children's next steps and work on the key aspects that support their learning.

Our Key Knowledge Points for this term are for the children to know: where the Arctic and Antarctic are, to say where penguins and polar bears live, to say one fact about a penguin, to know why some animals hibernate and to explain the Christmas story.

Please remember we have an open door policy and value the relationships we have with our families. Please do come and see us any time or contact us on dojo. If we can't see you on the door, we can arrange to meet later in the day. We thank you for your continued support.

Many thanks,

The Reception Team

