



## Ash Class News Spring 1 2017

Happy New Year and welcome back to Ash Class! First of all, Vicky and I would like to thank you all for your kind wishes, cards and gifts at Christmas and we hope that you have all had a wonderful holiday. We'll be hitting the ground running this week as we begin our new FROZEN topic. As we delve into everything cold and wintery, I've got my fingers crossed for enough snow to get out and have some fun but not so much that it causes us all too much disruption. Time will tell!

### Read Write Inc

RWI sessions will continue for us all.

For Y1 children this will involve reading ever more challenging books. The children have a new book each week and spend a lot of focused time reading this book with their reading partner and with their group leader. Furthermore, a lot of time will be spent consolidating the tricky, complex sounds the children have been taught and identifying these in words we read and write. We actively encourage the children to be 'sound spotters', looking for ee, ow, ou, igh etc in the books they read. Please encourage this as you read at home too.

For Reception children, we have very nearly learnt all of our set 1 sounds. We have also begun to blend these sounds together to make words. Soon we will begin to read short ditties with a partner. It is truly magical to watch the children's faces as they realise that they can read and write! Please continue to reinforce all of these sounds at home.

### Mathematics

- Reading and writing and ordering numbers within and beyond 20
- Counting in 10s
- Adding and subtracting within 20
- Recognising half of a shape
- Recognising quarter of a shape
- Telling the time to o'clock and half past
- Comparing and measuring mass and length

We have spent lots of time in the autumn term recognising and comparing numbers to 20 and so now we will begin to look at greater numbers. We will also use practical experience to understand the process of addition and subtraction and the children will become very familiar with telling 'addition and subtraction stories'.

### Reading books

**Year 1 children** will continue to read on a Thursday with either Mrs Crowe or me.

**Reception children** have all now begun their reading journey. In addition to the reading book, I will begin sending a word book home with key words (these are the important words that children 'just need to know!'). Some can be sounded out and others cannot, we call these red words. Please practise these words with your child either as flash cards, or if this becomes a little dull after a while, why not make multiple copies and play snap, or stick them around the house to play a game of 'find the word'? I will add in new words as children learn the ones they already have. It is helpful for children to have their reading book in their bag each day so that I can hear children read whenever there is a spare minute!

**All parents must write in the reading record each week so that we know how your child has got on at home.**

## The World

We will begin by looking at a map of the world and locating the hot, cold places and 'a bit of both' places in relation to the equator.

We will investigate winter in our own country by keeping a chart of the weather and temperature, seeing what our countryside looks like in winter and finding out how birds survive during these cold times. We'll give them a little helping hand by making some tasty bird food! If we get some snow, you'll find us outside building and exploring!

We will contrast all of this with life in the Antarctic. We will learn about the temperatures, the wildlife that lives here and how it survives.

In addition we will explore different materials to find those suitable to make warm shelters and warm and waterproof clothes.

We'll hopefully have some time to investigate those intrepid explorers who raced to the South Pole many years ago.

## Creative work

We will take our inspiration from cold colours and wintery images and materials. We hope to create outdoors making ice art and we will use photographs to make some detailed drawings of emperor penguins and domestic birds. We will explore the shape and patterns in snowflakes and create our own to add to a class snowflake quilt. We will use Jack Frost and snowmen as the stimulus for some dancing.

## FROZEN WINTER DAYS



## The physical stuff

We will try to get out onto the field (with our wellies!) at least once a week to follow treasure hunts, look for birds and spot signs of winter. Our indoor PE will be gymnastics based and we will explore ways to travel imaginatively on apparatus and jumping safely off the other end! We will also focus upon doing up zips on our coats and putting on wellies and outdoor suits.

## Communication and Language

There will be many chances to develop our language skills as we describe ice, snow, Arctic creatures and wintery scenes. We will expand our vocabulary as we learn the names of common birds.

Celebrating Chinese New Year will allow us to explore lots of new vocabulary.

## Literacy

We will share together a selection of wintery themed and fantasy stories. As well as using our phonic skills to decode, we will think about what might happen next and talk about the meaning of new words that we meet. Reception children will focus upon sounding our words and writing very basic sentences. Year 1 children will begin to write sequences of sentences to begin to form a narrative.

Important Days!	Requests!	Homework!
<b>Thursday</b> - PE dancing with Miss Georgia <b>Thursday</b> - Reading Y1s <b>Wednesday</b> - homework handed in for Y1s	Please, please, please ensure that your child has his/her reading folder in school every day!  We'd welcome any donations of boxes etc for junk modelling  <b>Especially Y1 children</b> - as we are now nearly half way through the year, please encourage your child to be independent in the morning. They can put away their own water bottle and reading folder! Have a quick good bye and then leave them to it!	Please read regularly with your child and write about how they got on in the reading record book. I advise that you read at least 3 times a week. If your child is reluctant, come and have a chat, Vicky and I have lots of ideas about how to encourage happy home reading sessions.

Remember, our door is always open, pop in with any concerns or queries. Mrs G and Mrs V