

Rock Class - Spring 1

Reading

Each day, our reading sessions focus on developing children's fluency, deepening their understanding of texts, and strengthening their ability to answer questions about what they've read. This half term our reading material will include a range of fiction and non-fiction texts related to our main topic on Antarctica. To end the day, we share a carefully chosen book together as a class. This half term, we will be focusing on 'The Polar Bear Explorers Club', by Alex Bell.



Our Main Topic



Our big question for this term is "What does it take to be an explorer?" KS2 will be exploring the wonders of Antarctica and the learning will take pupils on an adventure to the most southern part of our Earth. The children will investigate the unique geography and challenging conditions of Earth's coldest continent. They will explore a fascinating world of physical geography, learning to distinguish between daily weather and long-term climate patterns and what impact humans play in the future of this extraordinary continent.

English

This half term, we will use The Rainbow Bear and The Last Bear to inspire recount diary writing. Children will explore a range of spelling rules and grammar features, including expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, similes, rhetorical questions (to engage the reader), and parenthesis (to add extra detail). In non-fiction, we will focus on instructions, giving children lots of opportunities to practise and refine their skills. They will continue to deepen their understanding of punctuation, such as commas, question marks and semi-colons. The children will focus on using key aspects of grammar related to recount writing, such as rhetorical questions, conjunctive adverbs and adverbials of time and place.

Maths



In our daily maths lessons, we will continue to focus on times tables to build fluency and confidence. Both Year 5 and Year 6 will explore strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, alongside work on fractions and decimals. Year 5 will develop skills in percentage, perimeter and area. Y6 children will be focusing on measure, percentages and decimals. They will continue to cover a range of arithmetic strategies and have a real focus on reasoning and problem solving skills.



PE Days

Children in Rock Class take part in two PE sessions each week, which are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They will be developing their rugby skills on Thursdays with Mr Rickard, while developing their dance techniques on Tuesdays with Mr Finch! Please ensure your child brings their named PE kit on both days so they can fully participate in all activities.

Homework



Thank you for continuing to support your children to complete their weekly homework. It is wonderful to see so many children handing in homework every week. Please continue to take time to hear your child read and remember to sign their reading diary to celebrate their progress.

Maths and spelling homework will be sent home every Friday (Y6 will also have grammar homework) and should be returned the following Friday. To support times tables practice, children also have access to Times Table Rock Stars, with weekly certificates awarded to the highest scorer.

If you have any questions, concerns or information about your child to share, please feel free to pop in for a chat—we are always happy to help. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Finch