

Porthilly 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 continue to read *The House with Chicken Legs*!



Our Main Topic



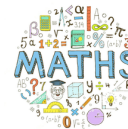
Our big question for this term is "What does it take to be an explorer?" KS2 will be exploring the wonders of Antarctica and the learning will take pupils on an adventure to the most southern part of our Earth. The children will investigate the unique geography and challenging conditions of Earth's coldest 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 and question marks, while developing confidence and creativity in their writing. Year 5 children will begin to learn about semi colons.

Maths

In our daily maths lessons, we will continue to focus on times tables to build fluency and confidence. Both Year 4 and Year 5 will explore strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, alongside work on fractions and decimals. Year 4 will also investigate length and perimeter, while Year 5 will develop skills in percentage, perimeter and area.



PE Days

Children in Porthilly Class take part in two PE sessions each week, which are held on Wednesdays and Fridays. 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 and should be returned the following Thursday. 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.

Mrs Jones and Mrs Gibson