

Porthilly Class - Spring 2

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. This term we will read Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone.



Our Main Topic

Our big question for this term is
How do you survive an Antarctic expedition?



KS2 will be exploring the wonders of Antarctica through the eyes of an historian. They will investigate how people's lives have shaped this continent and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. They will research a number of different polar explorers including Scott and the causes, key events, and outcomes of his race to the pole, and why it is considered a significant historical event.

English

This half term, we will use Shackleton's Journey by William Grill to inspire our narrative writing. Children will explore a range of spelling rules and grammar features, including expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, similes, relative clauses short sentences for effect, and parenthesis (to add extra detail). In non-fiction, we will focus on persuasive writing, giving children lots of opportunities to practise and refine their skills. They will continue to deepen their understanding of punctuation including use of inverted commas, apostrophes for omission 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 applying these skills in reasoning questions. Year 4 will also investigate fractions and decimals, while Year 5 will develop skills in long multiplication and short division.



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.

