

Communication & Language

Listening to each other talk about visits to different locations and climates.
Devising questions to ask a visitor from the British Antarctic Survey.
Sharing information found from non-fiction books about the Antarctic and animals.

Personal, Social and Emotional

Completing expeditions in groups in the outdoor area.
Working together to build igloos using large construction materials.
Understanding why sleep is important to stay healthy.
Learning about making healthy choices and the impact they can have on our bodies and the environment.

Physical Development

Making paper snowflakes to practise cutting skills.
Preparing vegetable soup and tasting it to keep warm in the wintery conditions.
Refining jumping and landing skills e.g. from one ice block (hoop) to another or from an iceberg (bench) into the sea (floor mat).
Pretending to be different animals from around the world. Learning different throwing and catching skills using various sized balls.

Literacy

Using non-fiction books to research Arctic and Antarctic animals.
Labelling the features of Arctic and Antarctic animals.
Writing Antarctic animal fact sheets.
Creating and writing rhyming alien pairs.
Making up stories with themselves as the main character.

Amazing animals!

Mathematics

Subitising numbers to within 10.
Recognising equal and unequal groups.
Making pairs with objects.
Comparing height and length of ourselves and animals.
Using timers to measure time.

Understanding of the World

Investigating ice.
Discussing what we can do to look after animals in the jungle.
Exploring a range of animals including nocturnal ones.
Describing what we have seen outside including plants and animals and making observational drawings of these.
Celebrating Chinese New Year

Expressive Art and Design

Designing homes for hibernating animals.
Collaging and painting animals.
Making lanterns.
Chinese writing.
Puppet making.
Listening to Chinese music.

Orange and Yellow Class Spring 1

It is fair to say that the children's first term in Reception has been a jam-packed and hugely successful one! We do hope you feel that your child has fully settled into life at Monkfield Park and enjoys coming into school each day. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at the start of the new term in January.

Icy Conditions

As our children will be learning about the Arctic and the Antarctic next half term, we thought it would be nice for them to share their experiences of cold conditions and environments. Whether it has been a visit to Lapland or a day in the garden making snow angels, we would love to see some photographs. Please do share these via your child's Seesaw account or email them to the school office.

Sentence Starters

As you are aware, Reception have a 'sentence starter' included in the school's weekly newsletter which is intended for you to ask your child to continue their learning at home. We would love to see photos, drawing or written work of any evidence which shows you and your child engaged in the sentence starter. E.g. A photo of them finding an object which is a 3D shape or the words they used to retell a story. Any work your child completes at home can easily be shared on Seesaw - your child's login can be found at the front of their Home Learning Book. Don't forget that there are always suggestions for home learning on the Reception page of the school website too!

Read Write Inc. Phonics

Thank you for your continued support in working with your child at home to complete any phonic activities which are sent home by your child's group teacher via the school office. The children now have different reading and writing activities to complete each day, depending on the group which they are working in, so please ensure that you check your emails each day. We are extremely proud of the progress all of the children are making and are sure they will continue to strive. If you would like any further information on how to support your child at home or with regards to how the programme works, please do not hesitate to contact us or to write a note in your child's home school communication book.

Helping your child at home

- Recognising and ordering the numbers 1-20 e.g. using sticky notes or magnetic numbers.
- Finding and describing objects which represent 3D shapes e.g. a tin of baked beans for a cylinder.
- Visiting the library together to experience different books. A request can be put into the library to borrow books.
- Writing captions and short sentences e.g. instructions on how to build a Lego model or how to make cupcakes.
- Observing and talking about wintry conditions together e.g. the icicles on the window and the frost on the windows of the car.
- Talking about keeping healthy by eating fruit and vegetables.

Important Diary Dates

Tuesday 4th January - **INSET day - Children not in school**

Wednesday 5th January- **First day of Spring term**

Friday 11th February - **Last day of term**

Monday 14th February - 18th February - **Half term**

Monday 21st February- **Children return to school**