

### Communication and Language

We will be listening to each other talk about visits to different locations and climates.

The children will devise questions to ask a visitor from the Antarctic Survey.

We will be sharing information we find in non-fiction books about the Antarctic and Space.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be completing expeditions in groups in the outdoor area, working together to build igloos using large construction materials.

The children will learn about why sleep is so important to stay healthy and how making healthy choices has an impact on our bodies.

### Physical Development

We will be:

Making paper snowflakes to practise cutting skills.

Preparing vegetable soup and tasting it to keep warm in the wintry 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).

Learning different throwing and catching skills using various sized balls.

### Literacy

The children will be:

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.

Writing simple instructions to complete a space mission.

### Mathematics

The children will be:

Adding and Subtracting amounts up to 10

Estimating amounts e.g. the number of spots on an alien's underpants!

Solving problems relating to size e.g. how many cubes deep is a crater.

Measuring objects using non-standard objects e.g. alien footprints.

Measuring time, using sand timers to complete space missions.

**The top of  
the world and  
beyond**

### Understanding of the World

The children will be:

Investigating and experimenting with ice.

Comparing a life in the day of a child from Alaska with a child from Britain.

Finding out about famous astronauts and different space missions.

Completing scientific experiments e.g. making and launching handmade rockets.

### Expressive Art and Design

The children will be:

Using different textiles to create their own snowy scenes.

Using musical instruments to make a class snow storm.

Making newspaper snowballs.

Making papier-mache planets.

Designing and sewing alien puppets.

## 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.

### **Trainee teacher**

We are lucky enough to have a PGCE student from the University of Cambridge completing her second teaching placement in Reception at Monkfield Park. Mrs Carroll will be working predominantly in Orange class up until February half term.

### **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 send these into school during the first week of the Spring term 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 from the week 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. 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 in their reading wallet. After the Christmas break, the children will have different reading and writing activities to complete each day, depending on the phonics group which they are working in. Please therefore ensure that you check their wallet each evening. It would also be greatly appreciated if you would remove your child's reading wallet from their book bag each morning as you come into the classroom.

We are extremely proud of the progress all of the children are making and are sure they will continue to thrive. If you would like any further information on how to support your child at home or with regards to phonics, 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.
- 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 a healthy diet and encouraging your child to eat a variety of foods.

### **Bits and Bobs**

In Reception, we are constantly in need of 'bits and bobs' which you may find laying around the home. We would love to receive any odd pieces of haberdashery, spare buttons, ribbon, string, etc., to add to our open ended Arts and Crafts trolley. Furthermore, we have a junk modelling box which the children have free access to, which runs out of supplies rather quickly! Any donations of clean recycled packaging would be greatly appreciated. With the festive period upon us, you may have some unwanted wrapping paper rolls and toy packaging you may want to get rid of! Thank you in advance for your donations.

### **Allergies**

As we will be making vegetable soup and hot chocolate next half term, can you please ensure that you let us know of any allergies that your child may have developed since starting school.

### **Important Diary Dates**

<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Children return for the first day of Spring term
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Vision screening check for Reception children (information letter to follow)
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Come and Share morning (invitation letter to follow)
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Last day of Spring 1 (children break up for half term)
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Half term
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	First day of Spring 2 (children return to school)