

Dear Reception Chestnut Parents, here is our topic for this half term. Please use it to aid your own research or bring things into class to support our learning. Have fun!

As effective learners we will:
Work together, taking turns and sharing. Show our particular interests. Take on a role in our play. Take risks and try new activities. Try again when something doesn't work the first time.

As explorers and investigators we will:
Explore signs of Winter. We will experiment and learn about how water can freeze, melt and be cold and even sticky! We will learn about Polar animals and their habitats. We will look at a globe to see where in the world....



As healthy movers we will:
Handle tools in the classroom safely. Using play dough and clay we will make our hands strong for writing. Form letters correctly in our writing. We will explore gymnastics and learn how to move freely & with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, experiments with different ways of moving and initiates new combinations of movement and gesture to express and respond to feelings, ideas and experiences.

As readers we will:

Read stories such as The Little Polar Bear, Eco-Hero and Ruby's Chinese New Year. We will look at non-fiction texts and find out about Polar animals, regions and habitats and the season Winter. We will learn to read new digraphs and trigraphs and say the sounds for them. We we also learn how to blend sounds into words, so that we read short sentences. We will continue to build upon our knowledge of tricky words, learning to read and write new tricky words each week.

As writers we will:

Learn to write simple words using the phonemes/graphemes we have learnt so far. We will build upon our knowledge of letter formation to help us form lower-case letters correctly. We will write independently in our play e.g. lists, letters and messages.



Why is snow and ice cold?



As artists, actors and musicians:

Make a winter mind map and take photos of wintry scenes. We will build on previous learning to refine ideas and develop our ability to mix paint and to create colours. We will build models by joining and creating texture, draw and collage to make models of polar bears and penguins. We will decorate snowmen too. We will make snowflake, icicle and stormy sounds with instruments.

As mathematicians we will:

Represent quantities in different ways, including by showing amounts on 1 hand. Work on our recognition of numerals to 5, matching numerals to quantities. Explore the different in value of consecutive whole numbers. Consolidate our understanding of the composition of 5, e.g. seeing that 5 can be made up of 3 and 2. Notice when quantities are equal or unequal.



As communicators we will:

Play listening games and building a bank of exciting words to talk about the polar regions. We will describe snow and ice and discuss fiction and non-fiction books relating to our topic. We will orally retell stories about Polar animals and our planet through small world and role play.



As individuals and friends we will:

Learn about Chinese New Year celebrations and traditions. We will continue our work on anti-bullying and we will learn how we can be a good friend. We will talk about the Bible as a special book for Christians and how Holy books are treated for other faiths. We will listen to some stories Jesus told.