



The Giles Nursery and Infants' School



Spring Term 2024 Newsletter

Year 2

Puffins, Pelicans & Penguins

We are excited to welcome the children back to school and to begin our exciting new topic, 'A Land Far, Far Away,' in which we focus on Antarctica and the indigenous people of America.

English

In English, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of traditional tales and how to write a setting, focusing on *The Snow Queen* by Hans Christian Andersen. They will research the real-life character of Pocahontas and create non-fiction texts about the indigenous people of America. The children will use the story of *Traction Man is Here* by Mini Grey to write their own comic strip version of the story. The children will continue to have regular sessions of phonics, to ensure they are using their knowledge and skills to help their spelling. This term we will continue to focus on alternative spellings for known phonemes. The children will continue to learn to form letters accurately and join their handwriting correctly.



The children will continue to read each day. This could be as a whole class reading a big book, as part of a group participating in guided reading, individually, with an adult or using computer software, or during phonics lessons.

Reading books are checked daily to see if reading is taking place at home and for your child to choose a new book when they are ready. It is so important that you hear your child read regularly at home and mark it in their reading record. Not only does this have a significant impact on their progress, but each time you read at home, your child receives a reading ticket that enters them into the weekly raffle to take home our reading teddy, Elmer, as well as earning reading certificates.

The children will have the opportunity to change their library books once a week during an afternoon if they bring their old one in to exchange.

Mathematics

In mathematics, children continue to explore addition and subtraction, including adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. They will learn to identify coins and notes and work with money mathematically. They will be introduced to multiplication and division using arrays and grouping. They will learn how to measure length and height, mass, capacity and temperature.



Science

The children will complete some exciting work this term. This will include learning about materials and their properties and investigating the suitability of materials for different purposes. They will also consider the effect of plastic on our oceans and learn about the importance of reusing and recycling. After half term, the children will learn about seeds and bulbs including planting, care, observations, and descriptions of growth. They will also investigate how plants survive in harsh conditions such as Antarctica.



Computing



In computing, children will learn about online safety. They will find out how to search for information and share work electronically using display boards on Purple Mash and understand what it means to share information more globally on the internet. They will be introduced to email using the Purple Mash programme, '2Respond'. They will learn about their digital footprint and identify steps to keep personal information secure. The children will also learn about effective internet searching. They will learn the terminology associated with the internet and searching. They will gain a better understanding of searching on the internet, before creating a leaflet to help someone search for information. After half term, the children will learn how to present ideas in different ways, including as a quiz, a fact file and a presentation.

Humanities

During the term, the children will develop their geographical knowledge and understanding of contrasting locations, including polar regions and the equator. This will be taught using stories, photographs, maps, books, and the internet. We will compare life in Stevenage to life in Antarctica. The children will also put together their own maps and explore compass points.

In history, the children will be learning about famous people, focusing on polar explorers, such as Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen, who raced each other to be the first to reach the South Pole. In contrast, the children will learn about the indigenous people of America and the life of Pocahontas.

Creative

This term in music, the children will invent a musical story about their neighbourhood.

In design and technology, the children will investigate, design, make and evaluate a castle for the Snow Queen. They will also investigate, design, make and evaluate a vehicle. The children will follow a recipe to make oat biscuits, like those eaten by Captain Scott on his expedition.



In art and design, the children will create winter art scenes exploring perspective, Inuit face art and charcoal paintings of trees. After half term, they will produce landscapes and explore printing and photography.

Physical Education

As well as outside play sessions, the children have regular PE lessons, usually on Mondays and Fridays. It is important that they come into school wearing the correct PE kit. This should include a white or red t-shirt, black shorts, white or black socks and black trainers or plimsolls. Lessons may take place outside so it would be helpful for your child to wear joggings bottoms and a sweatshirt. Lessons will include dance, yoga, and games. For safety reasons, children with pierced ears should only wear small stud earrings to school and should have micropore tape in their PE bag to cover their earrings during



PE lessons.

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Economic Education)

Our themes across the school for this term are 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'. In the first half term, the children will talk about their achievements and how success makes them feel. They will consider their strengths as a learner and how working with others can help us learn. They will work in a group to solve problems and reflect on how it feels to work together to achieve an outcome. In the second half term, the children will learn about healthy lifestyle choices, medicine safety and how to manage stress through relaxation and mindfulness.



One afternoon each week, groups of children are encouraged to speak to the class about something of importance to them. We ask that this is a special item or photograph, not a toy. This promotes their speaking and listening skills as a group and as individuals. Dates for the groups are posted in the classroom windows.

Religious Education

This term the children will learn about places of worship. They will explore what makes a place special, find out about places of worship and compare them.

Reminders

Please may we remind you that the school cannot authorise absence for family holidays during term time. This is because the children are continually engaged in a range of activities that are used to inform their end of key stage assessments. Our curriculum is carefully planned to ensure your child's progression and time away can lead to gaps in their learning. We very much appreciate your understanding in this matter.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative for your child's learning this term. If you wish to ask any questions, you are welcome to speak to the teachers at the start or end of the day.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

Miss L. Hill
Mrs. C. Brown
Mrs. M. Humphrey
Mrs. M. Trott
Class Teachers

Miss K. Lee
Mrs. S. Pentiu
Miss J. Wilkinson
Mrs. S. Dimova
Mrs. G. Phillips
Mrs. F. Rabbani
Mrs. T. Verschuren
Support Staff

