



Welcome back to another exciting half term!

This half term we will be using the topic "Let's Explore" as the stimulus for our learning. We will be thinking about different environments around the world. Our first visit will be to the rainforest, followed by polar regions and icy places. This will lead nicely into our exploration of Christmas!

If anybody is able to help by listening to readers or just as a spare pair of hands (it doesn't have to be every week) for even just half an hour, please let your child's class teacher know. It is so important that children are able to practise their reading skills regularly and any extra help will make a huge difference.

Here is an outline of the key objectives we will be covering in each area of learning:

Personal, social and emotional development – As we progress through the topic, children will have the opportunity to share their own knowledge, and ask questions of others. They will learn the importance of listening to people's ideas to further their understanding, and will continue to develop their confidence in speaking to both individuals and small groups. They will also be given chances to explore how their actions and choices affect others.

Physical Development – This is a key focus this half term, so please continue to work with your child on writing their name in our school script. Also encourage your child to develop their gross motor skills by taking part in activities such as pushing, sweeping, rolling, climbing and hanging from monkey bars. Children will continue to learn to hold their pencil between their thumb and two fingers, and continue to explore which hand is their dominant hand. They will be given the opportunity to experiment with different ways of moving and travelling, and alongside this they will be expected to consider how to move and travel safely without the need for adult intervention. In our Funky Fingers sessions, most children will begin to learn some simple letter shapes. They will continue to take part in PE sessions on a Thursday, so please ensure that your child's kit is in school every day and that all items are named.

Communication and Language – We will continue to work on concentrating and sitting quietly during learning sessions, and the children will also begin to attend whole-school assemblies to further develop their listening and attention skills. They will be encouraged to respond to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion, and will be exploring a great deal of new vocabulary including geographical terms such as "equator" and "polar". Please work with your child to explore the meanings and sounds of these words.

Literacy – This half term, the children will begin Literacy lessons alongside their daily phonics sessions. This will be a chance for them to apply their learning about letters and their sounds, and to explore different types of writing including labelling pictures, writing postcards and writing about pictures that they have drawn. In phonics, we will be continuing to explore rhyming, alliteration and individual letter sounds, as well as moving on to reading these in simple words. Your child now has a reading book, so please remember to try to read five times a week in order to progress through the reading challenge (all five reads must be recorded in their reading message book).

Mathematics – In Maths this half term, we will extend our knowledge of the number system up to 10. This will involve exploring the numbers that can be combined to make a number up to 10 (such as 6 and 3 is 9), as well as counting accurately to 10 by saying one number for each item counted. We will also be exploring the concepts of "more" and "fewer" or "less", extending this to finding one more than a number. Finally, the children will begin to learn the names and properties of some 2D (flat) shapes, so please look out for any shapes at home and talk about what makes them unique!

Understanding of the world – We will be encouraging the children to share about any family customs and traditions this half term, such as Halloween traditions, birthday celebrations and Christmas customs. If there is anything that your family does that you would like to share, please post on Tapestry and we will give your child the opportunity to talk to us or a small group about it if they wish. In Forest School, the children will continue to learn the ways we stay safe in the forest, and will explore the similarities and differences of living things. We will be focusing on ways to stay safe on the internet whilst researching about different places, and the children are beginning to access learning games and stories more independently on the computer too.

Expressive Arts and Design – Through this area of the curriculum, Year R children will have plenty of opportunities to be imaginative – role play packing for a trip, working in different restaurants around the world and exploring the different places we visit. Most weeks, the creative area has a different focus to enable children to explore a wide variety of resources and challenge them to extend their skills (for example, making a snowflake or painting using ‘cold’ colours).

We hope that you are enjoying sharing your child’s Learning Journey online using Tapestry. If you have not yet accessed this, please try to do so as soon as possible or pop into school on Thursday morning when we are able to help you.

It would be great for more parents to add their contributions about what your child has learnt at home – this could be cooking, painting, reading or sharing something they have learnt at school with you. Thank you to the many parents who are already doing this. We will try to respond to all of your posts with a comment or a ‘like’, but if we are unable to respond please know that we value every contribution as it gives us a great insight into your child’s interests at home, which we can build on and develop in school.

Home learning challenges:

You can choose which ones you try – please share them on Tapestry!

- **Chat:** Talk about what you would bring with you if you were an explorer. This may include clothing, activities or even just items which are special to you. Your grown-up could post the list on tapestry when it is complete!
- **Play:** At school, we will have a Rainforest Café and a Costa role play. Try setting up a café or restaurant at home and serving some delicious pretend meals. You could even use money to pay for each meal too!
- **Read:** Find a story about a place that you would like to explore. It could be about the rainforest or a cold icy place like we are exploring in school, or it could be anywhere else in the world!



Reminders

PE Kit

All PE kits need to be in school. We will send them home for washing at the end of each half term. Please check your child’s clothes are still all named and plimsolls fit!

Coats, hats, scarves and gloves

Your child needs a coat in school every day now, even if it appears sunny. They are able to play outside even when it’s raining! We also ask that coats, hats, scarves and gloves are all named so we can help ensure that they come home with your child.