

## Minnows Newsletter – Spring Term 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the spring term. We hope that you have all enjoyed your Christmas break and we wish you all a very happy new year.

This term our topic will be **Polar Explorers**. In **history**, the children will be learning about the race to the South Pole with a focus on Robert Scott. To further develop chronological skills, they will be making a timeline and sequencing key events in order. They will also be learning about how historians use sources of evidence to build a picture of the past and answer questions about history. In **Art**, children will be painting polar landscapes. After half term, our **Geography** focus will be the polar regions. We will be looking at the climate, animals and terrain near the North and South Poles.

In **Science** we are continuing our work on seasonal changes with a closer look at climate. The children will also be researching how animals adapt themselves to winter by either hibernating, migrating or changing the way they look. Visits to Forest School will begin later on this term which will allow them to see how the change in seasons influences animal and plant life. After completing their work on seasonal changes, the children will focus on learning about plants.

After half term we will be looking at mechanisms in **DT** and the children will be experimenting with sliders and levers.

This term, our work in **RE** will focus on Judaism and we will be learning all about Shabbat and making comparisons with other religious celebrations. After half term we will be thinking about the significance of the cross as we move towards Easter. In **PSHE**, the children will look at keeping themselves safe and knowing how to ask for help. They will also be thinking about the kinds of things that they can now be responsible for.

In **Computing** this half term, we will be learning about data and information. After half term, we will be creating a polar animation using Scratch Junior.

***PE will continue to be on Monday and Wednesday. Children will need to come to school in PE kit on these days. Please ensure your child's earrings are taken out before school. Thank you.***

### Homework:

Please continue to ensure that your child is reading regularly at home (for about 15 minutes) and log this in their reading record. We are really starting to see the positive impact of home reading in the children's reading, spelling and written work. The reading records will be checked every Friday, and we would expect to see a minimum of 4 adult signatures across the week. There is an incentive of an extra 10-minute playtime for this. Please include any relevant comments if necessary and we will respond where appropriate. **Reading books are changed on a Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child's reading record and book is in school every day.**

In addition to reading, we will sometimes send home high frequency words for children to practise reading and spelling. This term we are focusing on handwriting and will periodically send home practice sheets for extra reinforcement.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see either of us on the playground before or after school. Alternatively, please contact the office if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Hatch  
(Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday am)

Mrs Hopkinson  
(Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)

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Topic	Polar Explorers		
English	<u>Writing</u> Diamante poetry Traditional tales from another culture Recount writing Arctic adventure stories	<u>Reading</u> Whole class reading Group reading Individual reading	<u>Phonics</u> Daily phonics and reading/spelling of high frequency words
Maths	Place value within 20, Addition and Subtraction within 20, Place Value within 50, Length and Height, Mass and Volume		
Science	Seasonal Changes and Animals		
History	The Race to the Pole – Robert Scott		
Geography	Polar Regions		
RE	Why and how do Jewish people celebrate Shabbat? What does the cross mean to Christians?		
Computing	Data and Information – Grouping Data Programming – Animation (Scratch Junior)		
Art	Polar Landscapes		
DT	Mechanisms – Slides and Levers		
PSHE	Keeping Myself Safe Rights and Responsibilities		
PE	Target Games/Sending and Receiving		
Music	Introducing Tempo and Dynamics Combining Pulse, Rhythm and Pitch		