

RE

The children will start the New Year with the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany, where we consider how we can show our love for others. The children will then explore the theme of 'Revelation' where they will listen and respond to the story of the 'Good Samaritan', the 'Feeding of the 5000' and the 'Healing of Blind Bartimeus' through role play and hot seating. The children will learn about the Sikh faith and hear about Guru Nanak.

PSHE

The children will consider good listening and how it makes others feel. They will be considering an aspect of school life or the environment that they would like to improve and learning how to express an opinion. The children will be learning about the responsibilities of looking after animals and about those whose job it is to ensure animals are safe and cared for. Ways you can help: Encourage your child to take an active role in looking after a pet or friend's pet.

Expressive Arts and Design

Our focus will be on colour mixing and learning about hot and cold colours. We will be making clay models of penguins and thinking about how the material clay changes as it dries. We will be drawing different animals. As part of our DT we are going to make an igloo from milk cartons. Ways you can help – Save milk cartons!

Communication and Language

Our focus will be on reading, writing and presenting information in different ways. We will be writing a recount of the Great Fire of London in the form of a diary entry and presenting information about polar bears and penguins. We will go on to look at story settings and will be describing ice cold worlds using stories like 'The Snow Queen' as stimuli.

Ways you can help: Talk to your child about what they are reading and have found out. Discuss new words and meanings.

Venford Spring 2014

Our first half term topic is 'Hot and Cold'.



History / Geography

We will be using a range of different sources to find out information about the Great Fire of London. In particular we will be learning about the eye witness account of Samuel Pepys and linking it with our work in Literacy to write a diary entry. We will look at how we put out fires today and stop fires from spreading. The children will learn about fire safety.

Numbers, shape, space and measure

The children will continue to rehearse mental counting skills with a curricular target focus on counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. They will consolidate prior learning on place value and develop their addition and subtraction strategies. The children will practise their doubles and halves and will explore time. They will be collecting data related to the Polar Regions theme and present this in a graph. Ways you can help: Counting in the car and as you walk to places. Start from different numbers and go forwards and back. Try counting in different step sizes such as 2,5,10.

Understanding the world / Science

Our focus will be on 'changing materials'. The children will learn that water is a material that can be changed by heating and cooling. They will explore reversible and irreversible changes and consider how to stop ice melting. All learning will be linked to the topic of hot and cold and in particular the Polar Regions.

ICT

The children will be using a programmable toy to move in different directions and will learn the points of the compass. They will be creating information pages based on our topic of hot and cold. They will learn to cut and paste pictures and type information.

PE/ Physical Development

Our dance will be linked to theme of Hot and Cold and the children will be exploring ways to move expressing these concepts. We will continue to develop other physical skills using Leap into Life sessions in particular focussing on ball skills.

Music – Expressive Arts

We will listening to Vivaldi's 'Summer' and 'Winter' and exploring how it makes the children feel, drawing images to match the music. We will create wintery sounds using percussion instruments and consider ways to record their compositions. The children will accompany wintery songs keeping the beat as we go.