

Penguins, Possums and Pigs – Autumn 1

A warm welcome to Tigers Class! I hope you have had a fantastic summer and are ready for an exciting year ahead. This term our topic is Penguins, Possums and Pigs. Take a look at what we will be learning about this term.

Literacy

In Literacy, we will be looking at stories by the author, Oliver Jeffers. Children will make predictions about the stories, ask questions and use role play to retell the events. Each literacy session is structured to include a 10 minute focus on developing sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation. As the term progresses we will move on to look at non-fiction texts. We will recognise the common features of non-fiction and will produce a Penguin Fact File as a class. As we will study lots about animals throughout the term we will conclude by looking at animal poems.

Phonics will take place daily. To begin, we will recap Phase 3 and 4 sounds before moving on to Phase 5. In our writing area we have lots of phonics based activities to enhance children's reading and writing when they are working independently.

Numeracy

This term we will be focusing on developing our understanding of number and place value. We will learn to read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition, subtraction and equal signs. Through a range of practical activities we will look at 2D and 3D shapes and length, mass and weight. Throughout the term we will continue to develop problem solving skills.

To support and challenge the children, a magical maths area has been set up in the classroom that focuses on spotting patterns and identifying and ordering numbers.

RE

The children will focus on God's Great plan this term. We will hear stories from the Bible such as The Story of Creation and Noah's Ark and will think about the importance of God's creation and looking after our world. As we focus on God's love we will begin to write prayers for people close to us.

To support PSHE learning we will also be thinking about the Willows Community that we belong to. We will explore what it means to be part of a family, whilst thinking about what makes us special and unique.

Science

In Science we will be concentrating on animals. We will be able to group animals according to their common characteristics (Mammals, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Fish). We will be looking at animal's diets and investigating whether they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. Through exploration of animal's habitats, structures and movements we will become experts in identifying animals.

Geography

In Geography we will be thinking about hot and cold places to live. The children will be introduced to a variety of maps and a globe to identify different places around the world. We will be learning to name and locate the seven continents, five oceans, the equator, the North Pole and the South Pole. By the end of term we will also be familiar with identifying parts of the UK and recognising the location of Kirkham on the map.

PE

This term we will be focusing on two aspects of PE development. The initial session will assess the children's core movement skills through a range of activities. As part of the New Curriculum the assessments will focus on running,

skipping, hopping, jumping, throwing and catching. There will also be a focus on their ability to control a ball. On the Thursday session, Mr Wylde will work with the children to develop their movement skills.

PE will take place on a Tuesday afternoon and a Thursday morning. Please ensure all children have their PE kits in school on these days and that they are not wearing any jewellery.

Art

In art this term we will be experimenting using different types of media. We will be using pastels, pencils, charcoal, paint and chalks to create observational drawings of different animals and we will use clay to create penguin sculptures. The children will also be looking at different artistic impressions of water to create their own water scene using salts.

PSHE

Our topic this term is 'New Beginnings'. We will consider what it means to be part of a community. As a class we will discuss and role play different scenarios to seek solutions. Our focus is on creating a happy classroom and welcoming others into our community.

Computing

As we are introduced to using the laptops this term we will focus on E-Safety. Using Smartie the Penguin and Hector's World, the children will create an E-Safety poster. Using Microsoft Word to create the Penguin Fact File will enhance the children's computing skills. They will become familiar with changing texts, adding pictures and saving and printing work.

Music

Miss Mallinson our music specialist will be working with Tigers Class this year to experiment using a range of musical instruments.

Reading

Children's reading books will be checked and changed on a daily basis. This term we have a reading garden for the children to read in. Guided Reading will take place every week and will focus on developing the children's language comprehension through asking questions.

Help at home: Please encourage your child to read every night to extend their vocabulary and develop a passion for reading. To help develop comprehension skills, please ask questions to the children about the book that they are reading. This will help them to develop their word recognition alongside their understanding of what they have read.

Children will also be allocated books on Phonics Bug which they can read at their own pace.

Homework

For the first weeks our homework will be reading and taking part in Daphne's diary. Daphne's diary is designed to help develop the children's confidence when talking in class. The diary can be used to document Daphne's day by drawing pictures and writing sentences.

As the term progresses children will be given a set piece of homework each week. This will focus on numeracy and will be set on Friday to be handed in the following week. Tricky word lists will also be introduced to help the children recognise and spell high frequency words.

Extra Information

Children will begin to buy their own toast this term. Toast is 15p and crumpets are 20p so please send your child's weekly money in a purse or sealed envelope to store in class.

Finally, I am really looking forward to working closely with you all this year. I am so excited to get to know the children more as we explore a range of topics together. Please do come and see me after school should you have any concerns.

Kindest Regards

Miss Cross