



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

## Pioneer Class Curriculum Newsletter

We hope you had a very relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break and we welcome you to the start of a new school term.

Our focus question for this half-term is, '**Where will Roaming Gnome go?**' The children will explore different countries, explorers and styles of art, which will lead to them deciding on where Roaming Gnome should visit.

Below follows a more in-depth look at our curriculum coverage for this Enquiry Topic.

### Reception

The children will explore their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through play, talk and creative media. The children will continue to develop their knowledge of phonics in order to develop their skills in reading, writing and spelling. The children will immerse themselves in a range of stories about hot and cold countries and other cultures, continue to explore their skills in number, shape and measure, and investigate their ideas through role play, music, construction and art. In particular, the children will explore winter senses poetry with a focus on the senses; the stories of *Poles Apart*, *Possum Magic* and *Dreamtime stories*, as well as other stories throughout the course of the half term; find out about other countries including their geographical features and what it's like to live there; learn about explorers; develop their skills with a range of art techniques and styles; enhance their skills in programming. Throughout the school day the children will participate in a range of indoor and outdoor activities, both child-initiated and adult-led in order for them to develop the necessary skills, and it is always good practice to plan from the children's interests when creating the learning environment.

### Yr 1

#### **English**

Our English work this half-term begins with a focus on winter poetry; the children will use their senses to develop their descriptive vocabulary in order to write a poem based on an animal in the winter. The children will then look at stories about other countries, exploring and innovating the story of *Possum Magic*, before then writing their own non-chronological report about an explorer or polar animal. Our on-going work on phonics, spellings, sentence structure and word building will continue.

At home try: talk with your child about explorers and animals; share stories from all over the world; talk about words and find new words to extend vocabulary.

### **Maths**

In our maths work this half-term, the children will be developing their skills in number and their understanding of addition and subtraction within 20. They will also be exploring number by looking at 'real life' problems.

At home try: play board games; find numbers in everyday life; explore and manipulate money; tell the time.

### **Science**

Our Science topic for this half-term continues the children's learning about the seasons. They will focus on the season of winter, exploring what it is and carrying out some winter-inspired experiments.

At home try: talk about the seasons and how they change; go on a winter walk.

### **Geography**

In our geography work we will be learning about hot and cold countries, namely Australia and the Arctic. The children will find out about the physical and human geography of the countries and think about what it might be like to visit them.

At home try: look at maps and talk about different countries; watch the weather forecasts; share experiences of travelling; explore their own locality in terms of physical and human geography.

### **History**

Our history topic will involve learning about explorers. We will find out about the lives of Captain James Cook and Roald Amundsen, and explore how we can commemorate their achievements.

At home try: find out about different explorers and talk about what they do.

### **Computing**

Our ICT this term will continue to develop the children's skills in programming.

### **Art**

In art we will explore colour and pattern. The children will create Arctic landscapes using a variety of materials, before then learning about the techniques and styles used in Aboriginal art. The topic will culminate with the children creating their own rain sticks using the Aboriginal styles they have learned.

At home try: talk about colour and pattern, and explore it in the natural world; find out about different art styles from other cultures.

### **Music**

In music we will be singing and using our voices and tuned percussion instruments to tell musical stories. We will be listening to excerpts from Saint-Saens 'Carnival of the Animals.'

At home try: talk to your child about 'high' and 'low' sounds in the environment; sing nursery rhymes together or take turns filling in gaps in songs.

### **PE**

Our PE this half term focuses on different types of balance and ball skills.

**RE**

In RE this term we will be investigating the question, 'How do we celebrate our journey through life?' The children will be learning about special times in both Christianity and Judaism.

At home try: *talk about special times in your family and why they are special.*

We would like to take this opportunity to say that the children in Pioneer Class have settled particularly well this academic year: they know the routines; they are accessing the different areas of learning in the classroom; they are polite and helpful towards each other and the staff. It is at this time of year that we encourage the children's independence when coming in to school each day, and ask that you use the 'stop and drop' system in the car park, or drop your child at the gates; there will always be a member of staff to greet your child and to settle them in the classroom each morning.

Spelling/phonics and maths/topic **homework** will continue to be given out on **Fridays**. For those children that are bringing home books, we ask that you read daily, or at least 4 times per week, with your child and to record their reading in the reading diary. For those children that are bringing home sounds and words, we ask that you practise at least 4 times per week.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to speak with one of us.

With best wishes,

Miss Ray, Mrs Groves, Mrs Holmes, Miss Nicholas