

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mr Tim Edwards-Grundy

Head Of School: Mrs Rhiannon Abberley



Be kind, be curious, be you!

6th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back – we hope you had the most amazing Christmas with your families. Here we are starting the Spring Term with a new topic 'Frozen Kingdoms'. In the project, your child will learn about the regions of the Arctic and Antarctic. They will learn about the similarities and differences between these two regions, including the climate, landscape, and natural resources. The children will learn how to use grid references, lines of latitude and longitude, contour lines and symbols to identify the geographical locations of the Arctic and Antarctic, and how these, along with the tilt of the Earth, affect day length and warmth. Investigating polar oceans will help us to learn how they differ from other oceans on Earth and how climate change increases Earth's temperature and leads to rising sea levels. Also, the children will learn about the indigenous people of the Arctic, including how their lives have changed over time, and about the positives and negatives of tourism in Antarctica. Finally, they will learn about classifying animals, animal adaptations and evolution, and polar exploration and discovery.

NOVEL STUDY:

The Wolf Wilder is an award-winning novel written by Katherine Rundell. The story centres around Feo, who lives in the Russian woods and teaches tamed wolves how to survive in the wild. It is set against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution.

The novel's key themes include family, friendship, war, bravery, resilience, and nature versus humanity. Although *The Wolf Wilder* was published in 2015, it is set in 1917. As such, it contains some attitudes and language that modern readers may regard as inappropriate. These include elements of animal cruelty linked to the captured wolves and violence linked to the soldiers' behaviour. You may wish to discuss these themes with the children as they arise.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will continue to be daily, set on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Some children are forgetting their books, which means they are losing many pieces of homework – please can you remind the children about getting into good habits with packing their bags and checking they have everything they need for the following school day. Email us if there are any problems with any homework set.

READING:

As always, **daily reading** is an essential part of any child's learning, not only will it develop their language, thus improving their writing, but also it supports children's knowledge and development of punctuation. 15-20 minutes a day is sufficient and perhaps encouraging your children to read as part of their night-time routine would guarantee consistent reading.

PE:

PE has now changed to a Friday (in Charlbury); children should come to school dressed for sports on a Friday. The children will be learning the skills and rules of netball. Swimming has now stopped.

MUSIC:

Blackman Class will focus on the song: **A New Year carol**: Benjamin Britten's music and cover versions. Children will be introduced to Classical and Urban Gospel music.

Children listen to a song with the melody Eb, F G Ab Bb C D

ART & DESIGN:

This project teaches children about the genre of environmental art. They study how artists create artwork that addresses social and political issues related to the natural and urban environment. Children work collaboratively to create artwork with an environmental message.

SCIENCE:

Electrical Circuits and Components: This project teaches children about electrical circuits, their components and how they function. They recognise how the voltage of cells affects the output of a circuit and record circuits using standard symbols. It also teaches children about programmable devices, sensors, and monitoring. They combine their learning to design and make programmable home devices.

RE:

This term's question is: **What might a Hindu gain from a pilgrimage to India? The children will explore the following:**

- What is a pilgrimage?
- Locations of different pilgrimage sites
- What happens at Kumbh Mela?
- Research pilgrimages and present
- Hajj- pilgrimage for Muslims
- Make comparisons between the pilgrimages of different faiths (Hindu and Islamic pilgrimages)

CONTACT:

As always, between us, we are in school every morning and after school every afternoon, should you wish to see us. If we can help with anything, please do ask – we will always do my very best to support you and your children.
Mrs Merry and Mrs Abberley.

"Dear children, let's not just say that we love each other; let us also show the truth by our actions."

1 John 3:18 (NLT)