

Important dates and Celebrations:

Wednesday	5th January	Twelfth Night	
Thursday	6th January	Epiphany	
Friday	7th January	Orthodox Christmas Day	
Wednesday	12th January	Live St Johns Church Service	
Friday	14th January	Orthodox New Year	
Saturday	15th January	Martin Luther King Jr birthday	
Sunday	16th January	World Religion Day	
Monday	17th January	Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day)	Jewish holiday
		Martin Luther King Jr Day	
Tuesday	25th January	Burns Night	Scottish local observance
Thursday	27th January	Holocaust Memorial Day	
Friday	28th January – 4th February	National Storytelling Week	
Tuesday	1st February	Chinese New Year	
Thursday	3rd February	UNICEF Day for Change	
Monday	7th February – 13th February	Children's Mental Health Week	
Tuesday	8th February	Safer Internet Day	
Monday	14th February	Valentine's Day	
Thursday	18th February	Random Acts of Kindness Day	



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

RISE UP



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Spring term. It has been lovely to meet so many of you already during drop off and pick up. It has been great to get to know the different personalities in Apple Tree Class and re-establishing routines and expectations.

This half term we will be learning about Animals and Habitats through books, related activities and experiences.

If you have any questions, please come and have a chat at the end of the day.

Rachna and Apple Tree Team

RISE UP

Spring 1 2021

Maths

The children will be developing their understanding of number through games and activities and through their play. Children will deepen their understanding of numbers 1-10 and explore ways to make different numbers in different ways – such as 1+5, 2+4 and 3+3 all making 6.

Phonics

The children have demonstrated good phonic recognition however are often struggling with blending and segmenting of the sounds. This will be a huge focus as this supports children in their reading and writing.

We blend to read – 'c-a-t - cat' and segment to spell 'cat – c, a, t'. We will be getting into the habit of using fingers to support us in hearing all of the sounds in each word. There will be a large focus on digraphs where two letters make one sound such as 'sh'.

Talk 4 Writing (T4W)

T4W is a set of sessions to support children's language and storytelling. Often T4W sessions include retelling familiar stories such as traditional tales and using our own imagination the children are able to adapt and recreate their own version. As I get to know the children, we will be retelling our own stories and acting these out. This will give a good indicator of children's language and storytelling ability. Towards the end of the half term we will be using The Gruffalo's Child as a T4W story.

Core Text/Book

We've begun the term in icy Antarctica as we read through the story 'Blue Penguin'. Later we will explore 'The Gruffalo' focusing on different woodland animals. Finally, to make links to Lunar New Year we will focus on the story 'The Great Race'.

Music

The children will be learning songs to support their routines such as the weather, days of the week and months of the year. We will also be learning songs linked to our core texts such as 'if you're a penguin and you know it...' to the tune of familiar songs.

Religious Education

Our key question for the half term is 'Why do Christians believe Jesus is special?' We will discuss with the children that Christians believe Jesus: loves everyone, He is God's son and works miracles including healing people and teaches people to love others.

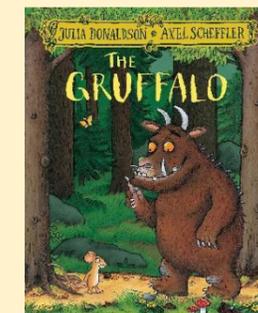
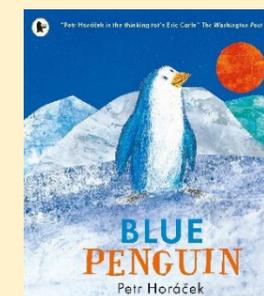
Understanding the World

The first core text Blue Penguin will be the starting point to discuss weather and animals that live in cold climates. We will then use the story The Gruffalo to discuss different woodland animals and habitats.

Exploring Art and Design

The children will be exploring the colours that link to the weather such as blue, white and grey to represent the cold. We will be utilising role play and small world areas to explore animals and habitats as well as making links to familiar songs to sing and act out.

We are reading:



Just a reminder...



Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes on their peg.

Please ensure that your child is wearing their P.E. kit on **Thursday** for their lesson.

Please remember the Nursery gate is open at **8:45-8:55am**. It is important that your child is on time.