

## Important dates and Celebrations:

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



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

**RISE UP**



Dear Parents and Carers,  
Happy New Year! It's so nice to have your children back. They're excited and rearing to go.  
Our first topic this half term is 'Winter' where we will be exploring the winter weather and share our experiences. Our core text is 'The Snowy Day'. We will then move on to 'Our Community and Transport', where children will be encouraged to talk about their community and explore different modes of transport. Our core text will be 'The Naughty Bus'.  
April and Linda.

**RISE UP**

**Spring 1 2022**

## Communication and language

As children's communication and language is developing we will be introducing key vocabulary around our topics. Try using some of these words: 'Winter, frost, snowflake, snowman, temperature, melt, freeze, weather, transport, traffic, bus. Don't forget to praise your child when you hear them using the word! We will also be teaching positional language such as 'under', 'on top', 'behind', 'in front', 'next to', 'inside', 'above'. At home you could use your child's favourite toy and ask them to put it in different places e.g. place it 'under' the table, or 'on top' of the bed. You could start with introducing one new word each week to ensure the children are using it and have experience of hearing the word in different context.

## Let's Read and Write

This term we will be focusing on retelling familiar stories using words and actions. Our core text will be 'The Snowy Day' and 'The Naughty Bus'. Mark-Making: Children will be encouraged to make different patterns such as straight lines, wiggly lines, zig zags, dots, circles and shapes. At home you could ask children to draw characters from the story and add detail to their drawings. If you comment on your child's picture before asking them about it, this will give them the opportunity to use some of the language they have heard. Reading: Please continue to read regularly to your child and encourage them to look at books independently. You could ask them to make predictions about the story and ask questions like 'What do you think will happen next?' 'How does the character feel?' 'Who is in the story?' 'Where are the characters?'

## Religious Education

This term our RE topic is 'Special clothes'. Children will learn about different clothes which links nicely with our 'Winter' topic and what clothes we need to wear in cold weather. We can provide children with the opportunity to look at clothes Christians might wear on special occasions or what a pastor might wear during church services and Christian celebrations. We will also be learning about other religions and special clothes they might wear, pointing out similarities and differences. At home you could look at family photographs of special occasions and talk about the clothes worn.

## Maths

This half term children will make comparisons between two groups of objects and identify when the amounts are the same. We will encourage children to use number language in play such as 'more', 'a lot', 'less' and the 'same'. We will sing number songs and ensure children are confident in reciting numbers, counting up to 10 and back again. In shape and space we will explore a variety of shapes and experiment with blocks, colours and marks. Children will begin to categorise objects in different ways through colour shape and size. You could go on a number or shape hunt around the house. Ask children to compare two amounts and ensure they touch each object when counting.

# This half term in Nursery...

## Personal Social and Emotional Development

As children are becoming more independent we would like to provide them to talk about their interests and opinions. This can be done through questioning and inviting them to comment on the world around them. At home you could give children the responsibility of carrying out small tasks such as tidying up or being the helper in the kitchen. Support children to feel good about themselves and identify successes. This can be something as simple as getting themselves dressed or remembering to brush their teeth before bed. Give children lots of praise when they are trying their best.

## Physical Development

This half term we will be encouraging children to become increasingly more independent, as they wash hands independently get dressed and undressed e.g. putting on coats and doing up any zips. Physical development gives the children the opportunity to develop their skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Taking part in physical activities such as dancing and moving their body in different ways will increase children's gross motor movement. At home you could set physical development challenges such as asking children to slither like a snake or jump like a kangaroo! How many times can you jump on the spot? We will continue to work on our fine motor skills and practice our tripod grip when mark making. To support this children are encouraged to take part in fine motor activities such as playdough or activities like lego, threading and using mark making tools. At home you could try making your own playdough and ask children to take part in different challenges such as can you make a person? Can you make a shape? Put the music on and move your fingers in the dough to the music. You tube have many 'dough disco' songs you could try.

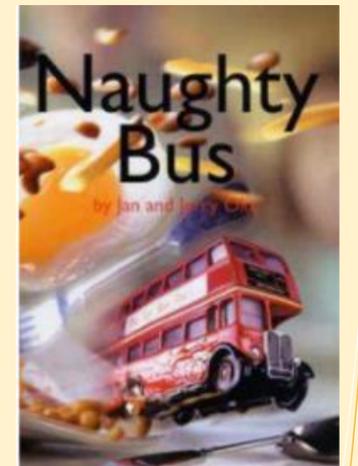
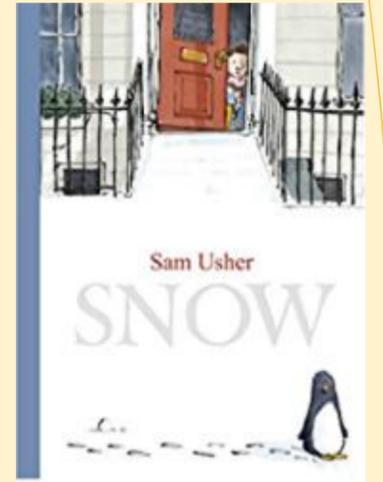
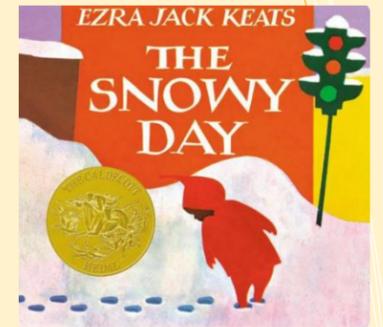
## We are reading...

## Understanding the World

Our Winter topic is a great opportunity for children to explore the cold weather. We will ask children to talk about the clothes they need to wear and identify similarities and differences. Children will experience going on a Winter walk. Ask children what they can see? What does it feel like? What can you hear? At home you could explore the process of freezing and melting by making ice lollies. Time how long the lollies take to freeze. How quickly do the children need to eat them before they melt?

## Expressive Arts and Design

We will be sharing different types of music and ask children to talk about what they like about it. Children will be encouraged to use movement to express feelings, such as dance and move their body to the music. We will create opportunities for children to talk about thoughts and feelings and express their likes and dislikes. Children can take on a role in their play and use their imagination such as pretending to be a character from a story for e.g. being a bus driver. Children will have experiences of acting out familiar stories. You could support children to make up their own stories.



**Just a reminder...**



**Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes on their peg. If somebody different is collecting your child please inform the office and add them to the current list of who can collect your child.**