

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. Pear Tree Class have settled back into school life extremely well and have got right back into their fantastic learning! It has been great to see all the children so eager to learn again. We have got lots of exciting hands on experiences planned for this half of term – focusing on Winter, Animals and The Chinese New Year, through lots of different wonderful books and resources.

Kindest regards,
Millie and Pear Tree Team



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)

The children are thoroughly enjoying their T4W stories. T4W is taught over a two week cycle, where we create a story map together but the children are then encouraged to create their own version. After every carpet session, the children take part in a follow up writing session that relates back to the story. This time is another great opportunity for the children to apply their Phonics knowledge.

The children also have access to the T4W story throughout the day in their learning environment.

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

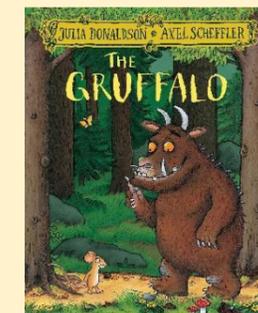
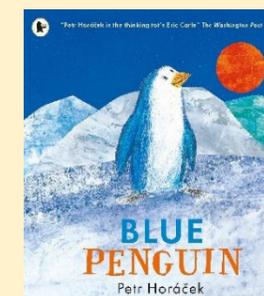
The first core text Blue Penguin will be the starting point to discuss weather and animals that live in cold climates. We will then use the story The Gruffalo to discuss different woodland animals and habitats.

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.

This half term in Reception ...

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.