



Baslow St. Anne's C.of. E Primary School
Life in all its fullness
Growing healthy minds and hearts together
Kindness - Respect - Diversity



Welcome to EYFS (Tigers)



Where will I find a Polar Bear?

Dear EYFS Parents,

Welcome back to Spring Term 1 (6th January to 13th February). We hope you all enjoyed your Christmas holidays and that you are looking forward to another exciting term ahead. This is your third parent pamphlet which will give you our new topic overview and also provides some important reminders for this next term.

We hope you are ready for an exciting term leading up to February half term. The children have all settled so well and it really feels like they have been with us forever. They will be used to our routines now and though possibly still tired from all the excitement of Christmas they will continue to develop their stamina and adjustments that come with full time school.

Our topic this term is called 'Where in the world will I find a Polar Bear?' and is based on learning about animals around the world and the habitats they live in. It is a geography based topic which allows the children to explore their world both near and far and to begin to understand how places can be similar and different. We will start by finding out about our world and our place within it before looking at habitats around the world and the different animals that are found in them. We will begin to find out how the animals differ and how they are similar and why they live where they do and learn about how we can look after animals near and far.

We will continue to help your children settle into school and as always we are absolutely committed to working with parents and carers to ensure your children continue on their happy and productive journey of school life. As we always say, remember we are very happy to answer any questions and are here to listen to any queries you have **PLEASE** just ask me anything you want.

Can we also use this opportunity to say a huge thanks for the lovely cards, kind words and generous gifts we all received - we really appreciate your kindness.

Thank you in advance for all your help, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you.



Mrs Whitfield and the Tiger Team



Some Important Reminders for the Spring Term



Start of the day: - Tiger door opens at 8.40am. You are welcome to still come in with them but please do encourage your child to carry out their morning routine on their own, obviously sometimes they may need a little support but this independence is really important for their development. Their routine is that once in the classroom they will put away their water bottle, book bag and coat and then look for their name card which will be on one of the activity tables. We will then help them to engage with whatever the task is on their table. As always it really does help them if you are confident about leaving them and leave them with a smile. Any issues we will be there to help and reassure you both. If you have an urgent query please have a quick word with either myself, Miss Pettett or Mrs Beardshaw. Any non-urgent enquiries can be written down in the home/school diary or emailed to me (tigers@st-annescofe.derbyshire.sch.uk) .

End of the day: - 3.15pm We let the children out one at a time to their known adult. If your child is going home with anyone different please do inform us in the morning or if it is going to be a long-standing arrangement (e.g. 623 (after school club)) let us know so we can make a note. If you wish to have a quick a chat over the gate just wait until all the children have left and then do ask me.

Toys from home: We have toys that the children can play with outside but if they still wish to bring a toy in please ensure it is only the size of their hand (we aren't being grumpy! it is just that their trays get stuck!!)

Uniform and coats: - As with everything they bring to school it should be **NAMED**. Please ensure children bring a **suitable** coat to school every day, even if the weather appears warm and sunny. Derbyshire weather is unpredictable!

Book Bags: Please do check your child's book bag regularly as we sometimes put information in there. **Please help your child to keep their Home/School diary and plastic wallet (with sound cards and an ideas key ring) in their book bag and bring the book bag to school every day.** We use their Home/School diaries as one of our forms of communicating with you, so please check their diary daily (just in case!). The book bag will go in the green box, there isn't a lot of room so please help your child keep just the required things in their book bag - a regular clean out helps!!

Reading: - As explained at our Reading Meetings in October your child's progress with their reading is very individual and we will chat to you individually as they progress.

Open Door: This will continue every **Monday and Thursday** this term so please do pop in and share your child's work with them. You are welcome to come to one or both days. If you can't make these days just ask me and we can sort a different day.

Show and Tell: This is on a **Tuesday** and is a lovely opportunity for your child to practice their speaking and listening skills. Your child is very welcome to bring in something to share from home if they wish, once your child brings it into school it goes in a box and it only comes out for show and tell to keep it safe. You are welcome to email/ class dojo me a photo to share instead. A reminder that the tiger puppets and journals go home on a **Tuesday and are to be returned the following Tuesday.** Thank you.

Writing + Update to Reading Meetings: Monday 12th January - 6pm or Wednesday 14th January 2.30pm. Please do come to one of these meetings we will be explaining how we approach writing in EYFS and give your ideas on how you can help your child in this area, as always there will be opportunities to answer any questions you may have. This is also going to be an opportunity to recap the reading.

THANK YOU for your support - it makes a huge difference 😊



This term's topic is "Where in the world will I find a Polar Bear?" where we explore the world of animals and habitats. We will be finding out Where they are? What are they? Who lives there? Why are they important? The following will give you a flavour of what is to come for your child this term. Many other learning opportunities will be taking place - do ask if you have any questions.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We now all know the rules and routines of our classroom and all aim to help each other be excellent role models for each other and help each other out whenever we can. We will start to again fill our 'Kindness' jar with the hope that it will be full before Easter if we can continue to work as the Tiger Team. We will be encouraging the children to develop their independence over this term including hanging up their own coats, putting away the toys and looking after their own things. We will continue to encourage them to take turns and to share resources. We will continue to discuss our feelings and emotions and why emotions can change. We will be exploring our self-regulation skills in being able to listen and follow instructions.

Communication and Language

All children will be encouraged to use their speaking and listening skills to talk about the topics we are covering and learn and use new words from these topics. We will practise taking turns to speak and to listen to each other. We will listen to stories and answer questions about them.

Physical Development

We will continue to encourage the children to dress and undress independently for PE and are setting everyone the challenge of being able to fasten their own coat before February Half Term! We continue to develop our large motor skills through using balls, beanbags, hoops, scooters, balance bikes and the trim trail. We are also going to be exploring gymnastic moves. We will continue with our dough disco sessions alongside physical literacy – all aimed at further developing their core strength and from this their fine motor control. We will have many opportunities to begin to develop our cutting, sticking, drawing and making skills through many topic and seasonal related crafts. We will continue to work on our lunchtime table manners, using our cutlery and talking quietly to our friends and have opportunities to discuss our healthy eating and self-care.

Literacy

We will be focussing on reading and writing activities based around our new topic. This will include writing labels for our World Habitat display and writing about the animals we are going to make out of recycled materials. We will continue to encourage the children to see themselves as writers – using letters in their writing and trying to use the sounds they know. We will work on our pencil grip and control and beginning to form letters through learning their letter families. We will continue with our daily phonics lessons and routines with the children learning letter sounds and word building, using segmenting and blending skills. The children will bring new sounds (digraphs and trigraphs) home (Phase 3) and we really appreciate your support in helping them practise these at home including trying to blend simple words with the sounds they know. We will also be using a range of texts (fiction and nonfiction) linked to our topics of Winter, Animals and Habitats to stimulate discussions and questions, as well as for the enjoyment!

Maths

We will be doing lots of different activities in maths – including counting forwards and back to 20 and beyond, learning about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties, creating repeating patterns. We will continue to learn about different ways of measuring including using scales. We will also continue to introduce and encourage use of mathematical measuring language. We will use lots of practical resources whilst learning including becoming familiar with numicon. We will use practical resources and number lines to find 1 more and 1 less than numbers and introduce practical addition and subtraction.

Understanding the World

We will use programs linked to our topics on the iPads and use the CD player and Interactive Whiteboard. We will look at the different habitats in the world and find out where they are, what they look like and what plants and animals can be found there. We will find out how this is similar and different to the environments we live in. We will find out why animals are so important and look at how we can help look after animals. We will take part in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch. We will use our outdoor area to explore the season of Winter, including (hopefully!) experiencing and playing with 1st hand snow and ice. We will be learning about Chinese New Year and finding out how it is celebrated there.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be creating Habitat, Animal and Winter inspired art including painting, printing, drawing and collage, as well as creating an aeroplane in our home corner so we can travel around the world and explore the different places. We will be making a variety of crafts using both adult led and child initiated ideas including having a day to create our very own recycled animal. We will also learn about how people celebrate Chinese New Year and make a moving horse to celebrate.



Top 10 activities for EYFS to do at home in the Spring Term



1. Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves, include zips, buttons - encourage that independence.
2. Talk and listen - have a conversation with your child without distractions, introduce them to new words - explain what they mean. See our leaflet on 'Talking to your child about school' for ideas on how to get them to talk about their day.
3. Reading - carry on reading to your child and sharing different books, talk about what is happening in the pictures, what might happen next. Help them to learn the sounds they bring home and to blend these into simple words. Each child is an individual and learns at their own pace, we will talk to you about the next stage in their reading as they reach it.
4. Maths should be learnt in a practical manner e.g. Counting the stairs to bed, matching socks, recognising numbers on car plates, buses etc.
5. Play games that encourage turn taking e.g. guess who, snap or any board games (also great for maths and language skills - e.g. snakes and ladder)
6. Use technology some great apps to aid learning e.g. comic life, twinkl phonics, beebot, sand write, magnetic letters
7. Encourage writing - a shopping list or a card, value their attempts - having a go and being able to tell you what it says is the most important thing at present. Don't worry about spelling!
8. If they want to write - encourage correct pencil grip (please ask if you're not sure) and encourage correct letter formation but make it fun - practice in sand, shaving foam, cream, flour etc.
9. Encourage them to practice writing their name - using the name card provided and ensuring each letter is correctly formed.
10. Remember school can be very tiring!! Make sure your child gets enough sleep, keep those bedtime and morning time routines going and don't overdo the weekly nightlife! Children who have plenty of rest, downtime and good routines are more likely to have productive and happy days at school.

POSITIVE PRAISE – ENCOURAGEMENT – GROWTH MINDSET – RESILIENCE – PERSISTENCE

Attendance and Punctuality

Please ensure your child is on-time for school every day, doors open at 8.40am. Good attendance is also important and has a direct effect on learning. Children should not take time off unless absolutely necessary.