

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! As ever, the term ahead is a busy one but we hope it will also be very enjoyable.

Our topic title for the first half term is 'Polar Adventures' and we have already had an exciting visit from Professor Pole! We will be learning all about adventurers and explorers of the Arctic and Antarctic. This will feed into our Science where we will learn more about materials. We will sort and investigate different materials using the key vocabulary. Our main experiment will be all about the factors affecting the melting ice and we will link this a little to climate change and what is happening in the world today.

We will also focus on animals that are native to Polar regions. We will learn about their food and habitat as well as focusing on colour mixing to make our own animal paintings.

In the second half term our History will focus on the Great Fire of London. We will learn the story behind why the fire happened as well as looking at how we learn about historical events such as this. We will have a special visitor from a Theatre Group to start this topic off (thanks to your support with the café) which should be very enjoyable for the children. We will also focus on the diary of Samuel Pepys and use this as a stimulus for our own diary writing.

In Maths, we will continue to work on developing Mental Maths skills. You can support this at home by working with your child on their times tables and weekly homework. Over the term we will work towards the children developing a rapid recall of the multiplication tables for 2, 3, 5 and 10.

### General Reminders

Your child will continue to be given the opportunity to change their reading book on a Tuesday and Friday. If they wish to do so at any other point during the week they only have to ask. In school we read books that are of a higher level than the ones we send home and we have a higher focus on comprehension skills. However, we do value the feedback in their reading diaries and will use this to consider the next level as appropriate.

Water bottles should be provided from home with your child's name on. We will send them home every Friday.

Our PE days this term will continue to be Wednesday and Friday. Please make sure that children have their correct PE kit in school for every lesson and have pumps that fit well.

As we enter further into winter, please ensure your child has suitable warm clothing for playtimes and lunchtimes as well as suitable footwear. Many thanks.

### Key Vocabulary

Waterproof	Omnivore
Absorbent	Carnivore
Flexible	Herbivore
Transparent	Prey
Opaque	Predator
Hardwearing	Camouflage
Warm	Ice floe

of