

Welcome to The Spring Term in the Creative Lab!

We are very excited to start learning about our new theme for this term:
'Polar Regions- The Antarctic and The Arctic'.

The Creative lab has been transformed into the Polar Regions and the children will have the opportunity to create various items to add to the environment. The rainforest was a great success and the children learnt so many facts and new skills.

Children from Oak, Beech, Elm and Maple class will continue to visit the Lab in small groups, on a weekly basis. It will allow mixed ages to learn from each other and collaborate. They will spend the whole morning learning, exploring and creating!

They will find out facts about the Polar Regions through Geography, Science, Literacy, Numeracy, Art and Design, Music, and ICT. We will also use the children's knowledge, ideas and questions to gear the learning that takes place. It will be a place where the children have fun, through practical investigation and creativity.

Here are some of the things we will be learning this term: -

Geography

- Locate the South Pole and North Pole on the world map in relation to where we live.
- Label key geographical features on Antarctica continent.
- What is the weather like? How is it different to where we live? Find out about weather, climate, landscape and animals.
- Who lives in the Antarctic and the Arctic? Learn about explorers and Innuits.
- Discuss how local pollution can have a global effect.

Science

- Make icicle ornaments using pipe cleaners in a borax and water solution. Observe what happens.
- Ice sculptures with salt and watercolours-add salt to a large ice block and liquid watercolours using pipettes- observe and record how the salt melts the ice. Salt melts at a lower temperature.
- How do the animals that live there survive the cold weather? Carry out an experiment placing hands in ice and blubber.
- How to keep warm in cold weather- what clothes should we wear? Blankets etc.
- Carry out experiments to find out what freezes first? Use different items, e.g water, vinegar, milk, soap etc.
- Which ice cube will melt the fastest? E.g. with sugar, salt etc.

- Lifecycle of a penguin.
- Use a thermometer to make careful measurements of temperature using standard measures. Use appropriate vocabulary: degrees, Celsius.
- Who's eating whom? Create food webs.
- Learn about how the Northern lights are formed? Use light sources to create them in the lab.

History

- Find out about the famous explorer-'Scott of the Antarctic'.
- How does Captain Scott deserve to be remembered today? Produce a piece of extended writing.
- Find out why Ernest Shackleton went to the Antarctic Children can write/ present 'letters of application' to join the Endurance expedition giving reasons why they want to go and why Shackleton should employ them.

Music

- Create music using tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments to create an atmosphere to link with the quiet, mysterious scenes of the Antarctic.
- Select appropriate style of music to accompany the creation of the northern lights.
- Listen to music by composer Ola Gjeilo when creating 'The Northern Lights' using rhythm wands and light sticks.

Art

- Make icicles using different techniques: glue gun, crunched up foil, paper, crystals etc.
- Make snowflakes using salt and food colouring, glue and glitter. Wax-resist snowflakes on circles.
- Make papier-mâché and clay penguins. Create background using salt and ink.
- Paint pebbles to look like penguins.
- Use pastels, watercolours to create own penguin pictures.
- Paint life size penguins to create a 'March of the Penguins' display.
- Use large plastic bottles and cotton wool to make penguins.
- Mixing cold colours using blue and white paint.
- Make 3D penguins and polar bears using plastic containers and modroc.
- Create northern light pictures using pastels, watercolours.

ICT

- Learning how to use appropriate search terms - Exploring why it is important to verify facts online and how to do this - Using the internet to find out if given facts about the Antarctic and the Arctic are true or false, as well as finding facts independently.
- Design own polar scene using a graphic program and transfer this onto a bag, jigsaw or T-shirt.

Literacy

- Find out facts about the animals that live in the Antarctic and the Arctic and write fact files.
- Label pictures of animals.
- Create information posters.
- Read a variety of stories related to the theme, e.g. The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins, Solo by Paul Geraghty, The Penguin who wanted to find out by Jill Tomlinson, Penguins Progress by Jill Tomlinson, The Whale and the Snail by Julia Donaldson.
- Make little books about various animals.
- Writing prompts... If I lived in the Antarctic I would wear, build, live in a?
- Explanation texts: How do polar bears survive in the Arctic?
- Instructions: How to make a warm drink.
- Diary entries on polar expedition: focus on thoughts and feelings of the cold, making a shelter etc.
- Class newspaper article: reported language. Report the event of the penguin arriving from the South Pole.
- Descriptive writing about the Polar Regions.
- Create scenarios- leave animal footprint trails- who has visited? What has happened? Write creative pieces of writing.

These are just some of the activities we will be doing whilst your children visit the lab. If you have any questions regarding the work we are doing in the Creative Lab please don't hesitate to contact school.

Mrs Fielding & Mrs Clarkson.