

Welcome to the start of the spring term at Little Willows.

We will be spending the first half of the term finding out about the Arctic and Antarctica. Detailed below are the seven areas of learning from the curriculum guidance for the EYFS and the types of adult-led learning opportunities that will happen this half term. These opportunities will be enhanced by children's emerging interests.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At this time of year, children have many items of clothes to put on to go out to play. We will spend time with your child encouraging independence in this area: putting on our coats, hats, scarves, gloves; practising zipping or fastening them and changing our footwear as needed.

We will think about animals that hibernate during the winter and in particular investigate what polar animals do to survive the winter.

How can you help....Can you think of an animal that hibernates during the winter?

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

During our polar discoveries we will be identifying Arctic and Antarctic animals. We will be building new vocabulary related to our theme and refer to this vocabulary in our communications with others.

We will be sharing a range of fiction and non-fiction texts including: Penguin by Polly Dunbar, 365 Penguins, The Emperor's Egg, That's not my....penguin/polar bear, Lost & Found, and Penguin Small.

How can you help....Have a look at pictures of polar animals, can children describe what they can see? National geographic Kids has some great photographs of polar bears to stimulate talk:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/general-animals/polar-bear-facts/>

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to provide daily opportunities for children to practise and refine their fine and gross motor skills both indoors and out. Our dough disco sessions form part of this provision.

During our PE sessions we will imagine a journey to the North and the South Pole and move as different polar animals: Slow, stomping polar bears; waddling penguins; jumping arctic hares. We will also practise our jumping skills imagining movement from glacier to glacier.

How can you help....Can you fold and cut a paper snowflake?

LITTLE WILLOWS Nursery



LITERACY

Whilst sharing books, we will be using vocabulary such as: title, author, illustrator, blurb, contents page and characters. We will use this knowledge when creating books of our own.

We will be focusing on developing our story telling skills using icy small worlds and puppets.

How you can help....Practise writing your name using ice cubes, in snowy shaving foam or cold, blue hair gel. Please ask for a name card if you need one for home.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to recognise and order numerals. We will be counting polar animals in the small world tray, using language such as more/less/how many? We will pose mathematical problems such as: If 1 more penguin joins the iceberg, how many will there be altogether?

How you can help....Can you group any play animals that you may have at home; noting differences in size.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

We will look at a globe and find out where the polar lands are. We will find out where Arctic/Antarctic animals live – land, sea or both. We will investigate what happens to Arctic/Antarctic animals in the summer/winter. We will be exploring ice, discovering how it is formed and how can we make the ice melt?

How you can help....Create some icy art and hang it up in your garden. How long does it take to freeze/thaw? See:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_ice_art.pdf

EXPRESSIVE ART & DESIGN

We will be using a variety of materials and a range of techniques including: watercolour 'Northern lights' painting and wax crayon resist painting (to illustrate how the waxy feathers of the penguin resist the water).

How can you help..Can you create a picture of a polar animal or scene?