



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas holiday and that you and your child are ready for the new term. We have a few staffing changes for this half-term, please see below-

Class Teacher- Miss Stead (Mrs Rockett will teach the children on a Friday 1-3.10pm whilst I have my PPA)  
 Teaching Assistant Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday- Miss McCulloch  
 Teaching Assistant Thursday & Friday- Miss Kelly

Our topic for this half term is 'Places and People'. We will spend the first week thinking about Winter and then move onto learning about The Polar Regions. The children will also be learning about Africa, Australia, India and China throughout the half-term. They will be learning about the different environments of these places and about the people, culture and traditions there. If you have any interests and experiences about one of these places or a different country / culture and would like to come in and share this with the children, please let me know so we can arrange a suitable time.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Children need experience and support to help them develop a positive sense of themselves and others, the social skills needed for interaction and the disposition to learn. This half term we will be focusing on cultures, beliefs and traditions from this country and other countries.



#### **Communication and Language**

Communication and Language is linked very closely to PSED where children learn to share information and opinions with others as well as listening to the ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion, through circle time, stories or play. The children will share their thoughts and ideas about their favourite holiday or favourite place to be.

#### **Physical Development**

In our PE sessions, we will continue to focus on using apparatus safely. Children will experiment with different ways of moving at various levels on apparatus and equipment. They will practise travelling with confidence and understand key words- around, under, over and through. Children will learn how to dismount safely and land appropriately from the apparatus. We will continue to develop gross and fine motor skills which are needed for holding a pencil and cutting with scissors. Children also have continued access to sporting equipment (balls, cones, bean bags, scoops and racquets, skipping ropes, bouncy hoppers and hula hoops etc) as part of the outside provision.



#### **Literacy**

We will develop this area with our teacher-focused activities around our topic. We will be using story books (including Handa's Surprise, Little Red and the Hungry Lion, Diary of a Wombat, Shen and the Magic Paintbrush and The Tiger that came to tea) and non-fiction books to support and develop your child's writing. Your child will listen to traditional stories from other countries and cultures.

Daily phonics, handwriting and reading sessions will continue. We will be focusing on phase 3 (the digraphs and trigraphs) this half term.

Reading with your child as often as possible remains a focus to promote a love of reading and help to consolidate the skills they are learning in school. It can be reading from their reading books, sharing a library book together or learning their tricky and high frequency words on the bookmarks you received.

### **Mathematics**

Children will continue to develop their mathematical understanding, skills and knowledge through opportunities to explore, play and practice. This half term we will continue to practise counting and comparing numbers. We will focus on numbers 5 to 10. The children will learn and begin to recall the number bonds for these numbers. We will continue to learn about 2D shapes and how to describe them.



### **Understanding of the world**

Children will be provided with a whole range of activities and learning opportunities to help them make sense of the world. Children will learn about the traditions and way of life from the different countries and cultures. They will look at the environments of the Polar Regions and compare these to other places around the world.



### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children will experience art, model making, music, movement, dance, imagination and role-play activities to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings. Children will have the opportunity to make Chinese dragons and lanterns, Aboriginal art and paint African animals. Children will perform the Chinese dragon and lion dance. We will watch film clips about African drumming and Bollywood dancing before attempting to have a go ourselves.

### **Notices:**

- Please make sure that your child is always dressed appropriately for all weather situations and has a coat in school every day. Please also ensure that your entire child's uniform is clearly named to help avoid any mix-ups.
- Please discourage your child from bringing in toys from home, unless it has been a request for our Circle Time or your child's Show and Tell day. We do not want anything to get lost or broken.
- Remember to bring your child's book bag in on Fridays for their book to be changed.
- Keep sharing your children's WOW moments to me via email.
- Please continue to send junk modelling items into school for our junk model area of provision, it is greatly appreciated.

If there is anything else that you need to know, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Stead

### **Dates for your diary**

**Show and Tell Fridays:** Aire 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Nidd 30<sup>th</sup> January, Swale 6<sup>th</sup> February and Wharfe 13<sup>th</sup> February

**Stay and Play 9-10am** – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January**- Cross Country at Ashland's Primary School