

St Mary's School,  
Amyand Park Road  
020 8892 5840

**Puffins, Kingfishers and Nightingales**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas break. Please find below an outline of the subjects we will be covering this half-term in Year One. We hope that this will help you to support your children's learning at home.

<b>Topic and Key Question</b>	<b>Polar Explorers</b> <i>What does it take to survive in the Arctic?</i>
<b>Hook</b>	<b>A Polar Exploration</b> Children will have a day of rotation, spending one session in each of the Year One classrooms. They will engage in three cross-curricular activities: Polar PE, Antarctic Art and an Hour in the Ice (an exciting sensory experience!).
<b>Great Work</b>	<b>Polar Explorers Museum</b> Year 1 will be welcoming their parents into school to visit their Polar Explorers Museum! The parents will be treated to see all of the Great Work that children have produced over the last half term, including photographs, Art projects and written work. Date TBC
<b>Geography</b>	The children will recap seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK and compare this to the Arctic and Antarctic. They will also look at the geographical features of these polar regions including where in the world they are in relation to the Equator.
<b>Science</b>	<b>Why don't all animals eat meat?</b> We will be identifying and naming a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We will be focusing on Arctic and Antarctic animals.
<b>Maths</b>	In Maths we will be focusing on Geometry. We will then move on to look at numbers to 40 including: counting, writing, comparing and completing number sequences. We will revisit addition and subtraction and begin to solve simple word problems. Later on in the term we will be introducing the children to simple multiplication and division.
<b>English</b>	In English we will be looking at the classic story of The Snow Queen as well as some non-fiction books related to our Polar Explorers topic to generate different writing. We will continue to focus on capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We will also be writing recounts related to a school trip –TBC.
<b>PE</b>	PE will focus on games and gym. In games the children will be developing their ball skills and in gymnastics the children will be working on flight, bouncing, jumping and landing.
<b>RE</b>	<b>What is it like to live as a Jew?</b> We will be learning about the <b>synagogue</b> and its importance as a place of worship. We will be learning about the key symbols of Judaism including: The Star of David and The Torah.
<b>Computing</b>	<b>How can we move around maps?</b> The children will be using bee-bots on a grid. They will learn to use positional language to create an algorithm which will direct the bee-bot around the grid.
<b>Art</b>	<b>How do artists use natural materials in their work?</b> We will be discussing the Inuksuk art and its importance in the landscape and we will use this to inspire our own work.
<b>Music</b>	We will be focusing on the unit <b>In The Groove</b> , which is a unit that explores different styles of music including: Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk. Each week the children will listen and learn a different style of In The Groove.
<b>PSHCE</b>	We will be focusing on the unit <b>Me and My Emotions</b> . The children will learn about identifying and naming different emotions and how to cope with different feelings. We will be continuing with our Paths scheme.

Please remember that every child must have a named water bottle (preferably a school one available from the office) in school each day, homework books are due in every Wednesday (to be returned to you on Friday) and book bags will be changed every Monday and Thursday.

Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

**Leanne Mitchell and Lucy O'Connell** (Kingfishers) CHECK SPELLING  
**Constance Capel** (Nightingales)  
**Sarah Hill** (Puffins)