Key Drivers: Learning power focus: Being resiliant

Communication and Language

In addition to our talking table, talk time and sharing sacks, throughout our topic we will be developing our questioning skills and taking charge of our own learning by setting ourselves New Year's Resolutions.

We will be listening to different languages from around the world and talking about similarities and differences between ourselves and others, as well as hearing stories from other cultures including the legend of the Chinese Zodiac.

Controversial Colin will lead us in discussing "Why can't I wear my T-shirt outside in Winter?" and "Everyone should celebrate in the same way!"

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

We will be developing our finger strength, pencil control and fine motor skills through daily funky fingers activities, role play, indoor and outdoor writing opportunities using a range of writing implements, malleable play with a wide variety of materials and by practicing our pencil grip and handwriting.

Gross Motor Skills

We will be focusing on developing a range of movements in our daily wake and shake sessions and developing our ball skills with Plymouth Argyle. As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations we will work as part of a team to learn and perform a dragon dance. We will practise self-care and learn to become more independent whilst developing an awareness of how to keep ourselves safe in the real world and on the computer.

Understanding the World

Seasonal change

We will explore the world around us and spot signs of seasonal change, understanding how humans and animals adapt to life in the winter.

Polar Lands/Chinese New Year

Through globes, maps, books and the internet will shall investigate different cultures and environments, learning how others live and celebrate, comparing these to our ourselves and looking at similarities and differences.

Materials

We will investigate and use different types of materials, developing our knowledge of their properties and which are best for keeping us warm in Winter.

Technology

We will be developing our E-safety skills with Smartie the Penguin and improving our skill at operating technological equipment within the classroom by extending our learning using the laptops, Ipads, me readers, interactive whiteboard and the listening centre. We will practise taking photos using the Ipads.

Literacy

Reading

We will be consolidating our phonics this half term, practising reading and writing our set 1 sounds and when ready, beginning to learn some set 2 sounds. We will match, recognise and order the alphabet becoming more consistent with upper case letters. We will become more confident at sounding out and blending simple words and reading short sentences. Our sight word recognition will continue to develop and we will begin to build our own word walls. We will explore a variety of books related to our topic and read factual books.

Writing

This term we will learn techniques to help us to develop our letter formation and use lots of different media to support this. Our funky fingers sessions will help to further develop our pencil grip and control. We will continue to write for different purposes within our play and develop our ability to write simple sentences, including finger spaces, capital letters at the beginning (and for names) and full stops at the end of sentences. We will practice applying our phonics when writing for real purposes by making Valentine's Day cards for people we love and creating fact files of our favourite Polar animals.

Winter Wonderland

Mathematics

Number

We will practise our counting to 100, counting on and back from different starting points and practising counting in different ways. We will be learning to recognise numbers 0-20 consistently and will focus on improving our number formation and recording. We will become more familiar with the language of addition and subtraction, explore composition of numbers to 10 and create and practice writing our own number sentences. A deeper understanding of number will develop through exploring number in practical investigations and through real life contexts.

Shape, Space and Measure

During the term we will improve our understanding of how time is measured and identify important times of the day. We will experience lots of play with analogue clocks and begin to read simple times such as o'clock and half past.

Our knowledge of 2D shape will develop and we will begin to identify and describe shapes by their properties. We will go on a shape hunt using iPads and identify shapes in the environment.

We will explore weighing and measuring through practical application and consolidate our knowledge of capacity when making slushies.

PSED

6R learning powers: We will continue to develop our understanding of the 6 R's for learning, with particular emphasis on creating our own goals and demonstrating resilience and perseverance in order to achieve them. We will be introduced to the learning cycle, a process which helps us to review and improve our work.

We will identify and celebrate people we love and the things they do for us during our Valentine's Day celebrations.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will use the learning cycle to design and make our own simple puppets, learning and practising new joining techniques. We will use ink and brushes and attempt Chinese writing and learn to create simple fans and lanterns. Using a variety of multicultural instruments, we will have fun recreating Chinese music and learning Chinese songs. As part of our topic we will listen to music from different cultures and begin to identify which instruments are being used.

Religious Education

We will begin to take part in whole school celebrations and assemblies.

We will make our own New Years' Resolutions, set simple targets we want to achieve and reflect on special times with family and friends.

We will explore how we can be kind and supportive to our friends.

We will develop our knowledge of Valentine's Day and take part in traditional celebrations.

Please note that in Reception our planning is driven by the needs of our children and linked to their current interests. For these reasons, our planning may deviate from the outlined plan.