Dear Parents

For January and February our topic is Winter. In this letter I will outline the main learning intentions which we will be working towards during that time as well as some suggestion for home learning. If you have any questions about these, please feel free to ask.

Literacy

We will be practising the correct formation of capital letters. The form of writing which the children will be learning is report writing, e.g. writing facts about an animal. We will work on speech marks, question marks and compound sentences (using and, or, but to extend the sentence). We will be working at Stage 5 of Linguistic Phonics i.e. long vowel sounds eg ay (play), ee (tree), igh(high), oa (goat) and oo (soon). Spellings will correlate to what we are doing in class.

Numeracy

The children will continue to work with number within 100. By the end of February, the children should be very familiar with the 100 square, adding and subtracting 10 and multiples of 10 to any number. We will be adding from a decuple number ie 40+3=, subtracting to a decuple number ie 46-?=40. The children will also begin work on grouping, e.g. group 21, 18, 27 into 3s. Fitting in with our winter theme, the children will do some map work, learning cardinal compass points, giving directions and creating bar charts on weather. They will also be revising familiar 2D shapes and learning to recognise a pentagon and hexagon. As always, problem solving will be continuous.

World Around Us

The class will be learning about winter. We will look at how weather affects animals and people. We will record temperature, and explore the properties of ice. We will look at how we heat our classrooms/homes now as compared to Victorian times.

The Arts

The children will be given the opportunity to explore colour mixing. They will be using different instruments to represent different weathers. We will look at Norman Adams painting of a rainbow.

P.E.

This half term, the focus is fundamental skills.

R.E.

We will be preparing for the pre-sacramental prayer service and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

P.D.M.U.

The children will be learning about similarities and differences between people, assumptions and prejudices.

PTO

**Some ideas for you to carry out at home:**

Discuss seasons, months, weathers

Create a rainy day / windy day / sunny day box

Experiment with colour

Get outside and experience the weather be it good or bad

Use the library / internet to help the children learn the skills of research and putting information into a report.

Think of questions about the weather which can be a focus of research in school

Measure the temperature inside or outside throughout a day or week and compare

Make and put out bird feeders

Help someone elderly with some shopping or company

Watch weather reports on TV

**Some useful websites:**

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/keystage\_1/games/geography1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/keystage_1/games/geography1.shtml)

[www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/wwww/teachers\_parents/technology.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/wwww/teachers_parents/technology.shtml)

[www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/eng/vtc\_-\_new\_format\_-weather\_symbols](http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/eng/vtc_-_new_format_-weather_symbols)

nmolp.vam.ac.uk/webquests/webquest.php?webquest\_id=2&partner\_id=tate

[www.weatherwizkids.com](http://www.weatherwizkids.com)

Met office website

**Some ways which you can help in school:**

Is anyone an expert on weather or know someone who could talk to the class about weather?

Come to read us a story!

This is going to be a very busy and productive half term, which I am very much looking forward to. Thank you for all of your support last term, especially in the run up to Christmas. I wish you all a very happy new year.

Cathy Gibson