

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you have had a good Christmas break and that your child is excited and ready to continue learning new things at Brierley C.E. Primary School. Here are some of the things your child will be learning this half term during our topic called 'Let's Explore!'

**Communication, Language and Literacy**

- Role-play areas: Home corner and Arctic/igloo area;
- Handwriting: Continuing patterns and lower case letters;
- Writing for different purposes: writing samples (unaided writing), big write sessions, Gruffalo descriptions, Penguin Small story stick, Clues for the bear hunt;
- Phonics: Daily 'Letters and Sounds' sessions (Phases 3) to promote speaking and listening, segmenting and blending, and reading/writing skills.
- Shared reading: The Gruffalo, Harry and the dinosaurs stories, Who cares about the weather, Penguin Small, The Willow Pattern story.

**Mathematics**

- Numbertime and follow up tasks (More or less activities - addition and subtraction sums); Maths games (Dinosaur count, Actions count, Salma's game);
- Baking: Gruffalo bread, Dino cookies, dinosaur sandwiches, Iceberg slush, Melting moments, Pavlovas, Bear biscuits;

**Expressive Arts and Design**

- Gruffalo puppets, Shape-o-saurs, dinosaur paintings, collages and models, snowflakes, tessellating igloo pictures, winter weather dolls, Russian dolls, Willow pattern stories, Chinese hats, lucky money envelopes;
- Music: Hymn practise and Kodaly songs with an emphasis on pulse and rhythm (Jack in the box, Apple tree, Sea Shells, See the Indian Chief, Jack be nimble, Bobby Shaftoe);

**Understanding the World - World**

- Mythological creatures, Dinosaur facts, Ice age;

**Understanding the World - People and Communities**

- Harbin Ice festival, Chinese New Year, Tsaagen Sar festival;

**Understanding the World - Technology**

- Early essentials Gruffalo paintings, dinosaur pictures, igloo pictures, 2 create a story about the weather (pictures and captions), Revelation natural art (blue and white Willow patterns);

**Physical Development**

- Gymnastics & Using the large apparatus to continue to explore: Travelling, jumping, landing rolling and sequencing;
- Games: bean bags, hoops, balls, bats.

**THINGS TO REMEMBER!**

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| <p><b><u>P.E. kits</u></b> need to be brought to school for sessions on <b>Monday and Friday mornings</b>. Please ensure all jewellery is removed on these days. Please can you also make sure your child's name is on all clothing!</p>  | <p><b><u>Homework</u></b> will continue to be given in your child's special homework diary. Please make sure the diary is returned each week <b>by Friday</b>, so that your child can receive a <b>special sticker</b> and the following week's homework can be prepared. Thank you for the lovely homework and creations so far!</p> | <p><b><u>Reading Record Books</u></b> are for your use as well as ours. Please feel free to comment on your child's reading at home. Your child should try to bring their reading folder to school regularly, so that we can hear them read and change their books.</p> |
|   | <p><b><u>Time to Shine</u></b> will take place at the end of each day (time permitting)! Rather than bringing in toys, your child is encouraged to bring in achievements (certificates) and/or books/information about our topic. Please see the rota in class showing when it is your child's turn for this half term.</p>           |   |
| <p><b><u>Morning jobs</u></b> are to support your child's <b>independence and confidence</b>. Please refer to the rota displayed in the classroom to guide your child to the correct learning area during self-registration. You are welcome to stay with your child whilst they complete the activities.</p> | <p><b><u>Indoor shoes</u></b> now need to be worn inside. Please can you ensure your child brings a pair of slippers or indoor shoes. Your child is welcome to leave these under their coat pegs ready for the next day.</p>  |   |
| <p><b><u>Magical moments</u></b></p> <p>Please remember if your child does something special that you would like us to know about, you can complete a 'magical moment' leaf that can be displayed on our class tree.</p>  |   |   |

We wish you a very good start to our next half term and please do not hesitate to come in and see us if you have any queries or concerns about your child.

Thank you

Mrs. Biggs (Class teacher), Mrs Charlesworth, Miss Bretton (teaching assistants) and Mrs. Reed (teacher)