

Our theme this term is... **Baked Alaska**



**As scientists we will:**

Compare and group everyday materials based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, including their hardness, solubility, conductivity and response to magnets. Understand how some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution and describe how to recover a substance from a solution. Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating. Give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic.

**As geographers we will:**

Learn about both the physical and human features of Alaska.  
Investigate the landscape and how this has impacted on the choices made by the people who live there both the indigenous people and the settlers.  
Investigate whether natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water are shared fairly .  
Discuss current concerns regarding the preservation of the landscape.

**As writers we will:**

Use the book: Percy Jackson and the Lightning

Thief to:

Write a soliloquy using modal verbs and adverbs showing a character's emotions.

Write an additional chapter in the style of a featured author using adverbials, prepositions, imagery and contrasting noun pairs.

Plan and write a non-chronological report.

Plan and write an extended narrative that emulates and author's style.

**As mathematicians we will:**

Recognise and calculate with decimals and negative numbers, including decimals.  
Secure understanding of formal methods of multiplication , including prime, square and cube numbers.  
Use multiplication to scale up and down, for example to change recipes.  
Use our knowledge of place value and multiplication and division to convert between standard units of metric measures.  
Consolidate our understanding of shape and secure our ability to measure and draw angles, rotate and translate shapes.

**French:**

This term, we will be learning the how to speak about different leisure activities and tell the time.

**As artists we will:**

Use inspiration from nature documentaries to design and create our own camera boxes.

**As programmers we will:**

Design and create a website to explain the importance of eSafety

**RE:**

We will be considering the views of God in the Islamic religion.

**PE:**

Our indoor PE sessions will be Gym and will be on a Thursday afternoon.  
Outdoor PE will be netball, and will continue to be taught by Mr Tinkler on Wednesdays.

**PSHE:**

Our topic is "financial capability aimed at deepening the children's understanding of money. They will explore the different ways we use this resource, including planned spending, risk taking, debt and who can help when we need it.

**Music:**

Year 5 will be having music every Wednesday with Mr Randall.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We do hope you had a restful Christmas/winter break. We were really impressed by the quantity and quality of work which the children produced in the Autumn term, and are excited about what lies ahead of us this term.

This half term, the classes will be learning about Alaska and how the resources and climate of the great wilderness affect the people and animals living there. We shall be considering the challenges of filming nature documentaries and designing and building our own camera protection boxes.

We shall also be finding out about materials, what properties they might have, and reversible and irreversible changes. As scientists, we will be conducting experiments to find out which materials can be dissolved in water, and which cannot.

The children have made progress in English and Maths, and are all learning important skills like self correction, resilience and questioning. The standard of their presentation has improved across the year group and it is lovely to see some writing in pen, now they have been awarded their pen licence. Many of the remaining children are very close!

As ever, thank you very much for your continuing support. We were very pleased by the homework, which you and your child shared with us in the last week of term, and the drive the children have had to learn their spellings. Do look out for the new homework menu which will be on its way to you soon!

If you have any questions or would like to talk to us at any point, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Either make an appointment through the School Office, or catch us at the end of the day.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Harwood and Miss Ryan

### Useful information for this half term...

Please ensure your child brings their P.E. kit in on a Monday and leave it in school until Friday. Occasionally, PE lessons have to change due to inclement weather. This half term our indoor PE will be Gym on a Thursday afternoon and outdoor PE will usually be on a Wednesday.

The children should still be bringing their reading record into school every day. The reading record should be signed, either by themselves or by an adult, to show that they have read. It is a great way for the children to share their opinion on the book, both with yourselves and us.

Now that the weather is turning much colder, please ensure that your child has a named coat in school every day. Hats, scarves and gloves should also be clearly named.



If your child walks home alone, they may like to have a torch with them. Any child cycling must have a set of front and rear lights to ensure that they are visible, along with a helmet.

### Ways to help your child at home...

Continue to encourage your child to read a variety of texts and genres, not just books brought home from school. Listen to your child read and ask them questions about the text to help their understanding. They may also wish to read the newspaper as we are currently promoting this within school.

Support your child to practise key skills at home, such as handwriting, spelling and times tables. We will continue to test spellings and times tables on a weekly basis, and neat, fluid, joined-up handwriting is a key part of the curriculum.

Encourage your child to *not* go on the computer! Instead, they could create their own game for them and their friends to play the next day.

Remember children really need a lot of sleep to learn effectively, at 9 - 10 years of age, around 10 hours sleep is best. Having a good, healthy breakfast and a snack of fruit or vegetable at break time also means they are prepared for their learning!