

Reception Newsletter 7th January 2022

Dear parents/carers,

This week we have been:

- Welcoming back to school, welcoming in the New Year, remembering expectations and daily timetables and doing lots of great talk about our holidays! We hope that you all had enjoyable ones whatever you were able to do.
- Starting our new topic 'Cold Places'. We have been making beautiful penguin collages out of black and white paper, doing lots of role play pretending to be in the Antarctic, and children have discussed with adults what they know already about cold places and what they would like to find out.
- We have read the start of the book 'Penguin Small' by Mick Inkpen. We spoke about how Penguin Small is scared of the water because it can't swim. This led us onto asking children if there is anything that they can't do yet or are scared of that they would like to overcome. Children have been writing on shooting stars something that they would like to get better at/less worried about/would like to achieve this year. They have come up with some great things.

Next week we will be:

- Learning more about Antarctica. We will be looking at photographs of the first explorers who visited it, animals who live there and talking about how people get there.
- We will be writing a list of things that we would pack if we were going to the Antarctic, using our sounds that we've learnt in phonics lessons to spell words phonetically, and practising spelling the common and tricky words correctly.
- Continuing to learn to form numbers to 10 and beyond correctly, strengthening our adding skills practising adding numbers to 10 to increase accuracy, speed and recall.
- Comparing hot places and cold places, using globes, google earth, photographs and stories. If you have a family photograph or a postcard of somewhere hot or somewhere cold, we would love to see it! Or if children would like to draw a picture of somewhere hot or cold, using warm colours like oranges and yellows or cool colours like blues and greys that would be lovely!

You can help at home by:

- Practising the following 'tricky words'. We go over these in phonics lessons and when practising writing but they can be sometimes a little tricky to pick up and remember, because they are not phonically decodable. We tell children, 'we just need to try our best to learn and remember them!' We aim to support children in knowing these by the time they go to Year One, in terms of spotting them in their reading books as and spelling them, as much as possible. Everyone has different memory capacities and varying speeds in how they pick words up so don't worry if they take a while over just a few of these, a focus word a week at home might be useful :) **A, no, go, into, to, the, I, be, he, she, we, me, you, was, my, they, her, are, all.**

Have a lovely weekend,

Katie, Sarah and the EY team