



# P.P.S. Beech Class

January 2018  
Spring Term

## Famous Adventures / Every Picture Tells a Story

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring term. We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break and are ready for your child's new learning experiences this term. We will be beginning this term with a historical focus, learning about the famous polar expeditions of Shackleton and Scott and after half term will move on to a cross-curricular art theme.

In Science, we will be learning about forces and magnetism. This unit will give the children the opportunity to develop their understanding of how forces work and to investigate forces in different contexts. They will be taught the meaning of key terms such as resistance, load and effort and will be encouraged to question and explore throughout their science experiences as the children work scientifically setting up simple enquiries and fair tests.

Our P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesday and Thursday. Please make sure your child has P.E. kit, appropriate for the weather, in school on these days. This term, our PE lessons will focus on sequences of movements and formation within a dance unit. The children will also be learning to play Football. Core skills such as passing, intercepting and tactical team working will be applied through lots of small and large team competitive games as we near the end of this unit.

Computing lessons this term will focus on e-safety

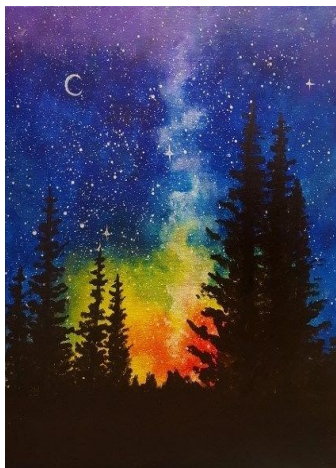
**This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.**

and word processing skills. The children will get to grips with how to save, edit and present their written work for an audience and will begin to explore different ways of presenting their learning using a range of software. The importance of staying safe online will be discussed throughout our Computing lessons this term. The classes will create their own code of conduct for internet use and will learn how to raise concerns about content or things they encounter online.

Our History for this term is centred on the questions: "Why were there so many expeditions to the polar regions in the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century?" and "What was life like for a polar explorer?" The children will explore chronology and placing these significant events on a timeline. We will be learning about the life of key historical explorers, such as Ernest Shackleton and Robert Falcon Scott – their journeys and the historical significance of them. We will be using our trip to Portsmouth Harbour to further research exploration and the difficulties people encountered.

This cross-curricular topic also lends itself to some fantastic opportunities for teaching geographical knowledge, such as climate, continents and landscapes. The children will also use maps and computer to locate continents and countries, hemispheres and the Antarctic Circle to explore the adventurous journeys.

In Art lessons, we will be learning about the work of the artist Nerys Levy and creating our own Antarctica themed art using the mediums of wax and watercolour paint. We will explore hot and cold colours and practice creating perspective in paintings, before applying this skill within the outcome of a Southern Lights painting.



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In Design and Technology lessons, we will research, design, create and evaluate waterproof and heat-retaining clothing. The children will learn about the properties of different materials, before deciding upon which will be the most successful when thinking about the design brief for their project. Later on in the term, the children will create boats with moveable sails using pulley systems.

As well as discussing and thinking about the core values that permeate the school's collective worships this term, we will be exploring the question, "What is it like to follow God?" in R.E. lessons. The children will have opportunities to draw comparisons between books within the Old and New Testaments of the Bible and will reflect on the teachings within this holy book and how they relate to modern life.

Music lessons this term will give the children opportunities to develop an understanding of the history of music. Within this, they will explore cultural traditions linked to music and appraise a variety of live and recorded music.

Mrs Soal will be teaching Year 3 French on Thursday afternoons. In the first part of the term, the children will learn to count to 31 and to say the date of their birthday as well as asking the question *Quelle est la date de ton anniversaire?* They will learn transactional language for playing games. During the second half of the term, they will be taught to name the parts of the body and describe colours. They will ask and answer questions about physical appearance.

Literacy and Maths will continue to be taught daily and will, wherever possible, be linked to

the topic to give the children's learning cross-curricular context. In Literacy, for example, we will be writing newspaper articles about Shackleton's journey to the Antarctic.

It goes without saying that we always value the support you give your children at home and the work you do with them to consolidate their learning. We continue to have a heavy focus on reading in school and believe enjoyment of reading is of primary importance. It would be helpful, if you could listen to your child read regularly at home and record this in their Reading Records.

Maths homework tasks will continue to be set each week on Mathletics. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns and weekly lists will also include two words from the Year 3 statutory list. Times tables and spellings will be tested every week.

Lastly, we would welcome any volunteer parents who are able to listen to children read during the week. Please let one of us know if you feel you may be able to support us with this.

We look forward to sharing the children's learning with you over the coming weeks,

Kind regards,

Mrs Harris and Mrs Blackmore  
Class teachers