



**Dallington CEP
The Street
Dallington
East Sussex
TN21 9NH**

Dallington Class



**Spring 2024:
Reception
Our Blue Planet**

Dear parents and carers,

Happy new year and welcome back! We have a wonderful spring term lined up for Dallington Class. The whole school topic for terms 3 and 4 is Our Blue Planet. We are splitting this into two sub themes for Reception: term 3 is Snow and Ice (very apt for this weeks weather!) and term 4 will be Jungles and Rainforests.

The term began with a lost penguin who needed our help to get back to the South Pole. We have been learning all about Antarctica's snowy landscape, as well as penguins and the other animals who call the icy continent their home. As the term progresses, we will move on to explore the Arctic too, using the text Poles Apart to link the South and North Poles. Our texts for the term move from penguins (Lost and Found, Blue Penguin, When Grandad Was a Penguin) to polar bears (Poles Apart, A Dot in the Snow) and then finally to some other endangered animals (The Journey Home). Alongside these books, we will enjoy lots of other fiction and non-fiction stories related to the topic.

We will be rescuing animals trapped in ice, painting polar landscapes, learning about polar exploration, watch live footage from the Antarctic Research Station, and finding out how penguins and polar bears manage to stay warm in such inhospitable environments. It's going to be a fun and busy term!

If you would like to join the fun, we always very much welcome parent helpers in the classroom, in particular hearing the children read. If you could spare an hour a week to help out then we would be very pleased indeed to have you!

As ever, we hope to be outside as much as possible this term, exploring the school grounds as the first signs of spring emerge. Therefore we would be grateful if you could ensure that your child has a coat and named pair of wellies in school at all times, as well as a hat and gloves while the weather is still so cold.

One change to note this term is that we ask that all children in Dallington Class now come to school in their PE kit each Thursday. They have proved themselves to be exceptional at getting changed independently—we no longer need to practice this!

As ever, please do let us know if you have any questions about your child's learning—our door is always open. Please do continue to share your child's achievements and news on Tapestry. We love to see what they get up to outside of school and it provides a lovely opportunity for them to share their photographs and news with their friends.

Many thanks for your continued support,

The Dallington Class team

Communication and Language

The development of speaking, understanding and listening continues to be central to all that we do in class this term. The children will be focusing on considering the listener, taking turns conversationally and listening to others' responses.

We will be asking how and why questions as we enjoy a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and will be using the past tense correctly, recounting events.

Through developing a deep familiarity with our selected texts we will be learning and using new vocabulary.

And finally, we will get our imaginations going by inventing our own stories, which we will retell orally.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be focusing on continuing to develop our sense of self as a valuable individual through showing pride in our achievements and developing our ability to express opinions and preferences. We will explore why perseverance and growth mindset are important.

We will focus on our friendships, showing sensitivity to others and working cooperatively to reach our goals. We will be developing our understanding that others think and respond in different ways and with the help of our key texts we will be learning to understand and embrace differences.

We will also be focusing on the different factors that support health and wellbeing, such as healthy eating, sleep and physical activity.

Physical Development

Through activities such as polar bear yoga, igloo building and penguin dancing, the children will continue to develop their gross motor skills, coordination and core strength. In fine motor development, they will continue to develop the foundations of handwriting, and will practise using tools such as pencils, scissors and cutlery in preparation for emergent writing.

PE: This term, we will focus on gymnastics. PE continues to be on **Thursday** each week. As the Reception children have proved to be fantastic at changing independently, we would now like them to come to school in their PE kit on their PE day, just as the rest of the school do.

Literacy

We will be reading a rich variety of fiction texts this term, including *Lost and Found*, *Blue Penguin*, *A Dot in the Snow* and *The Journey Home*. We will also be exploring non-fiction texts about the Arctic, Antarctic and climate change. We will be developing our comprehension and prediction skills and expanding our vocabulary, as well as using our imaginations to invent an alternative ending to a familiar story.

In writing, we will be orally composing sentences and holding them in our memory before attempting to write them in part or in whole as appropriate. We will continue to work on spelling CVC words independently. In handwriting, we will be focusing on forming letters correctly.

In phonics, we have made a start to phase 3, which means we have covered the last of the single letter sounds and have moved on to consonant digraphs (such as sh, th, ch). Next we will learn the vowel digraphs and trigraphs (ai, ee, igh and so on). We will be continuing to practise segmenting sounds to read and write words, captions and sentences.

Reading

The children have been making fantastic progress with reading! Thank you for all your support at home; please do continue to read with your child every day if possible as it really is the single biggest thing you can do to support their learning. If you find they are just too tired to read their school book, then share a favourite story with them instead. Please do let us know if your child is reluctant to read at home, so we can endeavour to support further.

The children will be given a new reading book aligned to their current phonics learning when they have read the previous book at least three times - at home or school. Please do fill in your child's reading record every time they read with an adult at home. We would be very grateful if you could also ensure that your child's reading folder is in their book bag every day.

Maths

In maths, our focus continues to be on developing a deep understanding of number and numerical pattern. We are continuing to follow the Mastering Number curriculum set by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

We will continue to develop our subitising and counting skills for numbers within and beyond 5, and increasingly connect quantities to numerals. We will also begin to identify missing parts for numbers within 5. We will explore the structure of the numbers 6 and 7 as '5 and a bit' and connect this to finger patterns, dice patterns and the Hungarian number frame.

We will compare sets and use the language of comparison, focusing on equal and unequal and more and less than. We will continue to develop an understanding of the counting sequence and link cardinality and ordinality through the 'staircase' pattern. We will order numbers and play track games and join in with verbal counts beyond 20, hearing the repeated pattern within the counting numbers.

Understanding the World

The children will be taking part in many topic-related activities that will help develop their understanding of the world. These will include: comparing the polar environment to that of Dallington and learning about life in the Arctic Circle, exploring maps and Google Earth to learn about both the North and South Poles, finding out about polar exploration and investigating how penguins stay dry and polar bears stay warm despite the harsh habitats they live in.

Expressive Arts and Design

We encourage the children to be imaginative and to explore and use different media and materials every day. Planned activities include: opportunities to explore watercolours to paint polar landscapes, designing a new boat to get the lost penguin home, outdoor ice painting and step-by-step instructional drawings of polar animals. The children will also be able to express their ideas through dance and music and through role play opportunity in our home corner and play house.

RE

In RE this term we are exploring the ways in which we are all special, unique and valuable. We will be learning about how Christians and people of other faiths celebrate and welcome new babies. We will go on to find out why Easter is important to Christians and how it is celebrated.

Outdoor learning

We plan to be outside as much as possible, come rain, shine or snow, so please do ensure your child has a waterproof coat/puddle suit and a named pair of wellington boots in school every day.

Our learning is very hands on and as a result the children can be very messy at the end of the day. We are very grateful for your understanding!