



-During this half term our enquiry is:

## Why is the Sky Blue?

This half term we will be exploring the weather and winter in particular. We will be thinking about and exploring this fascinating topic and investigating questions including- What do we know about the weather? Where does snow and rain come from? Is the sky always blue? This is a super topic for all of our children that enables them to be outdoors noticing changes to the weather using all their senses.

Focus Text: One Snowy Night- Nick Butterworth

Subject	Activities / areas to be covered in school	Possible learning at home
Personal, Social and Emotional Development.	I will be learning to.... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about how we can look after ourselves, animals and the environment especially during very cold weather</li> <li>• Discuss character feelings, discuss how feelings change- Using the story One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth</li> <li>• Getting along &amp; sharing with our peers and resolving conflicts with other children e.g. finding a compromise- revisiting the school rules and why they are important</li> <li>• Getting dressed and undressed for PE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to be as independent as they can. Spend some time on a weekend allowing them to get themselves ready – I know this can be a rush on a school morning! The children will now be getting themselves dressed and undressed for PE sessions and therefore any practise at home will help them.</li> <li>• Chat together about the weather and what you notice out of your window.</li> <li>• Ask your child the question – What makes a good friend? What do we need to do to be a good friend?</li> </ul>
Physical Development	I will be learning to... <p>Weekly handwriting, PE- using the large apparatus, dance using Chinese New Year dragon – moving in a variety of ways</p> <p>Fine Motor Skills: Jungle Journey intervention, handwriting practice</p> <p>Keeping healthy / looking after our bodies and wrapping up warm for winter. Thinking about why we wear what we wear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep practising the graphemes at home and using the mantras as you write them.</li> <li>• Play throwing and catching with your child. This is a great activity to develop hand eye coordination and helps develop muscles in hands.</li> <li>• Discuss germs and how they spread. Practise coughing into the arm of their sleeves or into a tissue and making sure it goes in the bin.</li> <li>• Look at ways of keeping healthy during the winter months.</li> </ul>
Communication and Language.	I will be learning to... <p>Retell stories with actions</p> <p>Listen to other children’s ideas and responding to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try and find as many opportunities as you can to talk to your child. Model how to speak in full sentences and encourage your child to answer using a full sentence rather than just one-word answer. It’s all about how we model</li> </ul>



	<p>Talk about caring for ourselves, the environment and animals. Retell a story without pictures or props Role-play and small world play Talking about changes in the weather Show and Tell opportunities</p>	<p>speech. If they make a mistakes, just repeat the word/sentence back to them and model the correct way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chat about the weather- why do you think it's going to rain? Where does the rain water go? Why do we need to wear a scarf and hat today?</li> </ul>
<p>Literacy</p>	<p>I will be learning to...</p> <p>Daily phonics learning the phonemes ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or and the mantras to help with this.</p> <p>Writing the graphemes qu, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or</p> <p>Learning to recognise and write the tricky words <i>was you they my by all are sure pure</i></p> <p>Ordering stories with actions.</p> <p>Explore non-fiction weather books</p> <p>Writing own name using correct formation. Write words and sentences to retell stories and to label.</p> <p>Start to write simple sentences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practise the phonemes regularly along with the tricky words and high frequency words. Practise the words/sentences on the phoneme card homework.</li> <li>• <b>Share your child's reading book as often as possible. This will help your child's fluency when reading which inevitably helps with their understanding of the text. This reading book will be the same one the children are reading during Little Wandle reading sessions. (Please ensure this comes to school everyday in your child's reading folder and with their reading diary. This should be signed when you have read with your child)</b></li> <li>• Have a bedtime story and discuss things happening in the pictures.</li> <li>• Encourage them to predict what they think might happen next.</li> <li>• Make shopping lists together.</li> <li>• Visit the library and share some weather stories you may enjoy;</li> </ul> <p>One Snowy Night- Nick Butterworth After the Storm- Nick Butterworth Little Cloud- Eric Carle Sonny's Wonderful Wellies- Lisa Stubbs James and the Rain- Karla Kuskin</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>I will be learning to....</p> <p>Continue our number work to 10</p> <p>Explore one more and one less</p> <p>Investigate doubling, halving and sorting</p> <p>Subitize</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Count for lots of different purposes</li> <li>• Keep practising number formation using the mantras</li> <li>• Use the language of more, less, and fewer.</li> <li>• Sorting objects into groups of choice as well as halving and doubling.</li> <li>• Practising the 'Rainbow Numbers' to make 5</li> </ul>



<p>Understanding The World</p>	<p>I will be learning to...</p> <p>Discuss the environment and changes in the weather Discuss hibernation, migration and how to care for animals in winter. Making bird feeders Using a globe to see where birds migrate to Watch the weather forecast daily Exploring freezing and melting, the power of the sun and wind Discuss the past and present in own lives. Discussing the New Year and New Year Resolutions Baking activities Photographing the changes in the weather. Exploring the Chinese New Year Winter walk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap up warm and go for a walk- what do you notice together? Talk to your child about the seasonal changes. Are there any trees still with leaves- why? What is the weather like today? How do we know it's going to rain? Can you see your breath when you breathe? Why? etc You might like to watch the weather forecast together.</li> <li>• Discuss the New Year 2026. Share your New Year Resolutions with each other</li> <li>• Get creative and make a wintry picture/sculpture using different white materials?</li> <li>• If it is going to be really cold, make some ice mobiles together by filling jam jar lids with water and placing petals in the water. Lay down some string and let them freeze overnight. Hang them up and see how long they take to melt.</li> <li>• Watch to see which birds frequent your garden- discover what birds like to eat</li> </ul>
<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p>	<p>I will be learning to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explore sounds and move to music in weekly music sessions</li> <li>• play a variety of instruments</li> <li>• painting wintry pictures</li> <li>• sing familiar songs</li> <li>• looking at how white paint changes colours</li> <li>• explore 2D and 3D art</li> <li>• create snowflakes</li> <li>• small world play</li> <li>• Explore artists painting about winter</li> <li>• Transient art with loose parts</li> </ul>	<p>Continue to sing nursery rhymes and other songs that the children might know. This helps the children to rhyme as they progress through the year.</p> <p>Songs may include: I'm a little snowman round and fat The sun has got his hat on Snowflake, snowflake The North wind doth blow It's raining it's pouring I hear thunder Doctor Foster I can sing a rainbow</p>

# Reception

# Spring 1 Overview



	<p>Key vocabulary Weather, snow, rain, sleet, rainbow, sun, kind, share, design, house, wind, blow, storm, strong, waterproof, light, dark, shadow, sun, shade, build, design, create, strong Freeze, melt, change, liquid, solid, harden, hard, wet, cold</p>	
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