

# ANNS GROVE PRIMARY- RECEPTION NEWSLETTER- TERM 3



Dear Parents and Guardians,

## Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a restful and joyful festive break, whatever your celebrations may have been, and are ready to kick off the Spring Term with enthusiasm.

We understand that the start of term has been a bit tricky with the recent snow and ice, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation during this time. Your support has been invaluable, and we look forward to working together throughout the rest of the year.

As always, we value your continued support and encourage open communication. Please feel free to share any feedback or concerns with us—we're here to listen and help.

A quick reminder about our drop-off and pick-up times: Drop-off is at 8:45 AM, and pick-up is at 3:15 PM. Punctuality is greatly appreciated to ensure a smooth routine for everyone.

## Communication and Literacy

*Our Theme This Half Term: What Makes a Place Cold?*

This half term, we'll explore "What Makes a Place Cold?" by learning about the Polar Regions through non-fiction texts, videos, and stories. Our focus books are *The Great Explorer* by Chris Judge and *We're Going on a Polar Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen.

These stories will help us learn key vocabulary related to polar adventures, animals, and their habitats.

In literacy, we'll focus on reading tricky words like me, my, be, we, and she.

Children will expand their vocabulary, ask questions, and articulate their thoughts in well-formed sentences. They'll also practise using connectives to link ideas and use talk to solve problems and explain their thinking.



## Understanding the World

This unit explores the season of winter, including its signs and how ice, which is frozen water, changes back to water when it melts. We will learn that these changes can be reversed. We will also explore the Arctic and Antarctica, studying animals like polar bears and penguins, and how they survive in the cold. We will discuss the features of the Arctic and how living things need water, food, light, and warmth to stay alive, with a focus on how animals adapt to extreme conditions.

Additionally, we will learn about Chinese New Year, the story of the Great Race, and how people celebrate by preparing their homes for the festival.



## Snack Time- snack and chat

Snack time in the Foundation Stage is a valuable part of our daily routine. It provides children with the opportunity to enjoy snacks while engaging in conversations with their peers, fostering social skills and learning good table manners.

If your child has recently turned five and you would like them to continue receiving milk, please ensure you complete the necessary milk form.

## PSED (Personal, Social, and Emotional Development)

This half term, we will be focusing on routines and expectations both inside and outside the classroom. We will talk with the children about how we can be good learners and remind them of the actions they can take to help themselves. We will encourage perseverance, teaching children that by not giving up, they can overcome challenges.

Children will explore learning through real-life situations, stories, puppets, and roleplay, where they will be prompted to think about different responses and decide which would be the best to follow. This approach helps build social skills, emotional understanding, and resilience.



## Maths

This term in maths, we will focus on understanding the number zero, number bonds to 5, and the idea of one less. Children will compare small and large quantities and learn about heavier, lighter, full, empty, and other measurement concepts through stories like Who Sank the Boat and The Blue Balloon. They will explore counting to 6, 7, and 8, and learn to arrange numbers into pairs. Children will also practice addition and work on understanding how numbers are made of smaller parts. We will explore length and size using tools like rulers and tape measures, and talk about days of the week and time using stories such as Mr. Wolf's Week and Jasper's Beanstalk.

## Physical Development Focus: Outdoor Exploration and PE Adventures

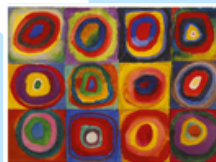
This term, our outdoor provision is packed with exciting activities to boost your child's physical development. We'll focus on jumping, balancing, throwing and catching balls, and enhancing coordination through natural play. These activities are designed to strengthen hand-eye coordination, gross motor control, and overall physical strength.

In PE, our theme 'Places and Spaces' will guide children in developing essential movement skills. They will practice balancing, running, hopping, and navigating different directions, building their confidence and agility. We're excited to see the children grow stronger and more coordinated through these fun, engaging experiences!

## Creative Development

In music, we will continue to build our repertoire of songs and rhymes, focusing on pitch and rhythm.

In art, we will explore colour mixing and identify hot and cold colours. We will look at artworks by Wassily Kandinsky (Squares with Concentric Circles), Avercamp (Ice Skaters), and Willis (Summer Solstice), discussing the colours used and how the paintings make us feel.



## Fun Things to Do at Home...

So many of you are working hard at home and having fun with the online home learning activities—keep the photos and comments coming!

Please continue reading with your child daily. Encourage them to read their own book or sound cards, and take time to share and talk about the library book together.

