



# MEDIUM TERM PLAN

SPRING 1

## What a Wonderful World

**SCHOOL RULES**

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe

**BIG QUESTION:** Can a polar bear and a penguin be friends?

**CURRICULUM INTENT**

In this unit, children extend their understanding from themselves to the wider world, exploring contrasting environments and the animals that live there.

Through rich, hands-on experiences and meaningful interactions, children begin to compare, describe and talk about what they notice, developing curiosity, empathy and a sense of belonging to our world.

We inspire children to ask questions, make connections and celebrate the beauty and diversity of our planet.

**KEY TEXTS**

**The Emperor's Egg**

**Lost and Found**

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**

**KEY VOCABULARY**

polar	penguin	bear	habitat
cold	ice	snow	ocean
compare	same	different	animals
world	environment	explore	discover

AREA OF LEARNING	WHAT CHILDREN WILL LEARN	HOW THIS IS TAUGHT (IMPLEMENTATION)
<b>Communication &amp; Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen attentively and respond to stories and discussions.</li> <li>Ask questions to find out more and share ideas.</li> <li>Learn new vocabulary to describe environments and animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily circle times, SHREC interactions, storytelling.</li> <li>Vocabulary-rich continuous provision and small world play.</li> <li>Use of real images, videos and props.</li> </ul>
<b>Personal, Social &amp; Emotional Development</b> One Life Focus: Building Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand that we are all part of one world.</li> <li>Show kindness and care for living things.</li> <li>Work and play cooperatively with others.</li> <li><b>One Life Focus: Building Resilience</b> – keep trying, learn from mistakes and believe "I can do it!"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Regulation and emotional coaching.</li> <li>Circle time discussions about caring for animals and our planet.</li> <li>Praise, turn-taking and group challenges.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move in a variety of ways, balancing and climbing safely.</li> <li>Use tools with increasing control and accuracy.</li> <li>Begin to manage own basic needs and dressing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funky Fingers, Dough Disco, PE sessions.</li> <li>Continuous provision (cutting, threading, building).</li> <li>Explicit modelling of self-care.</li> </ul>
<b>Literacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enjoy stories and talk about characters and settings.</li> <li>Begin Phase 2 phonics. Segment and blend CVC words.</li> <li>Give meaning to marks and begin letter formation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little Wandle phonics (daily). Drawing Club.</li> <li>Story mapping and role play (small world, Arctic).</li> <li>Label writing and mark-making opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop understanding of numbers 1–3. Subitise and compare quantities.</li> <li>Begin to explore patterns and simple 2D shapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mastering Number sessions, maths in provision (sorting, comparing, matching).</li> <li>Counting songs and number routines.</li> </ul>
<b>Understanding the World</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore polar environments and compare with our own.</li> <li>Learn about animals and how they survive in the cold.</li> <li>Talk about looking after the world around us.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real-life resources, maps and globes.</li> <li>Small world play and ice investigations.</li> <li>Discussions about habitats and adaptation.</li> </ul>
<b>Expressive Arts &amp; Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore white, blue and silver materials.</li> <li>Create representations of polar animals and landscapes.</li> <li>Sing songs and move to music about the world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arctic art, junk modelling, small world.</li> <li>Music and movement, role play (Arctic explorers).</li> <li>Creative exploration stations.</li> </ul>

**PLANNED EXPERIENCES**

- Polar animal small world
- Ice investigations
- Compare cold environments to where we live
- Create an Arctic display
- Explore real animal footage
- Kindness week – how we care for our world

**CONTINUOUS PROVISION ENHANCEMENTS**

- Role Play – Arctic exploration station
- Small World – Polar habitats
- Creative – Ice painting, collage
- Investigation – Ice, water and floats
- Construction – Igloos, snow scenes
- Loose Parts – White, blue, shiny materials



**ADULT FOCUS & INTERACTION**

- SHREC approach consistently embedded
- Sustained Shared Thinking
- Vocabulary modelling and extending
- Co-regulation and emotional coaching
- Modelling routines and expectations

**ASSESSMENT & IMPACT**

Children will be able to:

- Talk about animals and their habitats
- Compare places and environments
- Ask questions and share ideas
- Show care for living things
- Begin blending CVC words
- Explore numbers 1–3 confidently

Assessment methods:

- Observations (Tapestry)
- Phonics assessment
- Baseline & ongoing formative assessment

**HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME**

- Talk about animals and where they live
- Watch nature or animal videos together
- Read stories about the natural world
- Look after the environment (recycling, reducing waste)
- Share observations on Tapestry