

Class Spire Newsletter Autumn 2 2025

Our topic for this half term is 'Pondering the Polar Regions' with a focus on the question 'How do explorers overcome the challenges of the polar regions?'

English

This term in English, we are continuing to use *Literacy Tree* as our English scheme. Our new topic, Pondering the Polar Regions, links brilliantly with our first book *Lost and Found*. Through the sequence of learning, children will write their own 'found' tags for other animals which turn up in the classroom, re-tell the story in their own words and write a sequence of instructions using consistent tense, detailed diagrams and numbers or words indicating chronological order. To finish, children will write their own version of a 'lost and found' story.



Math

Year 1 - This half term, Year 1 children are focusing on addition and subtraction within 10. They are learning to combine and separate numbers, explore number bonds, and understand the relationship between addition and subtraction through fact families. Children will also practise solving simple word problems and using number lines and part-whole models to support their learning. In addition, we are exploring 2-D and 3-D shapes, learning to recognise and name them, discuss their properties, sort them into groups, and create simple patterns. The aim is to build fluency with numbers to 10, develop confidence with basic addition and subtraction, and begin to apply their understanding of shapes and patterns in everyday contexts.

Year 2 - This half term, Year 2 will focus on addition and subtraction strategies including making 10, adding three 1-digit numbers, crossing 10, and working with two-digit numbers. Pupils will also explore 10 more and 10 less, building fluency and confidence in mental maths and problem-solving.



Science

This half term, Spire Class will be learning about materials and their properties. Children will explore everyday materials like wood, plastic, metal, and glass, and describe how they look and feel—for example, whether they are hard, soft, waterproof, or bendy. They'll investigate why certain materials are used for specific objects, such as why windows are made of glass or why raincoats need to be waterproof. Through hands-on activities, children will also discover how some materials can change shape when they are squashed, stretched, or twisted. This topic encourages curiosity and scientific thinking, helping children to ask questions, make predictions, and explain their ideas using new vocabulary, while linking science to the world around them.

Geography/History

This half term, Spire Class will be heading to the coldest parts of the planet as they explore the polar regions. The children will begin by locating the Arctic and Antarctic on a world map and

Art and Design

This half term in art, Spire Class will be creating beautiful polar-themed scenes inspired by the Northern Lights. The children will begin by learning how to use watercolours to paint a vibrant

PSED

This half term, Spire Class will be focusing on the HeartSmart principle "Let Love In", helping children to build emotional awareness, self-respect, and healthy relationships. They will

<p>learning about the extreme conditions found there, including freezing temperatures, icy landscapes, and seasonal changes. They'll also discover the incredible animals that have adapted to survive in these harsh environments.</p> <p>Later in the term, the focus will shift to history as the children learn about two remarkable explorers: Matthew Henson, one of the first people to reach the North Pole, and Felicity Aston, the first woman to ski solo across Antarctica. The class will compare their journeys and achievements, exploring how exploration has changed over time.</p>	<p>background that captures the glowing colours of the aurora. They will then explore texture and layering by adding a snowy landscape using a paper collage technique. To complete their artwork, the children will draw a penguin using chalk and charcoal, learning how to blend and shade to create contrast and detail. This project will help develop their skills in painting, collage, and drawing, while encouraging creativity and expression through a wintry, atmospheric theme.</p>	<p>learn how to recognise and welcome love and kindness into their lives, while also understanding the importance of boundaries by identifying appropriate and inappropriate contact. The children will explore how to tell the difference between truths and lies that may be spoken about them, and celebrate what makes each of them unique. As part of their personal development, they'll also learn about the benefits of saving rather than spending, and discover practical ways to take care of themselves each day—physically, emotionally, and mentally.</p>
<p><u>RE</u></p> <p>This term, we are learning about <i>parables</i> — special stories Jesus told. The children will retell <i>The Lost Son</i> and learn that it teaches Christians about God's love and forgiveness. They'll talk about how Christians show forgiveness, for example by saying sorry or praying, and think about what the story means for them.</p> <p>We're also very excited to start preparing for our Nativity, where the children will share the story of Jesus' birth through songs and performance. It's a wonderful way to celebrate love, joy, and hope at Christmas!</p>	<p><u>Music</u></p> <p>This term, the children will be diving into an exciting <i>Under the Sea</i> theme through music and movement. They will be exploring how to move and create sounds to reflect different sea creatures, responding to changes in tempo and dynamics in the music. The children will learn to keep a steady pulse, recognise and perform high and low sounds, and read simple symbols to represent these. They will also develop their awareness of pitch, rhythm, and dynamics as they perform. We're looking forward to seeing their creativity and confidence shine as they bring the sounds and movements of the ocean to life!</p> 	<p><u>PE</u></p> <p>This term, Monday afternoon PE will be gymnastics with Mrs H-G.</p> <p>On Thursdays Coach Louis will be teaching Multi-Sport.</p> 