

# *Juniper Hill School*

## *Information for Reception Parents*

**Term:** Spring 1

**Topic:** Winter & Polar Animals

3 weeks starting 5/1/2026



### *Literacy*

We will be going on a walk around school and the Orchard and discussing signs of Winter, thinking of words to describe what we can see, hear and touch etc. We will be exploring stories and non-fiction books around Winter, Antarctica and Arctic and teaching new vocabulary centred around our topic.

In Phonics we will be revising the sounds sh, ch, th, ck, qu, ng & nk as well as reading words that contain these special friends e.g chip, sing. We will also begin to write some simple captions and sentences that relate to our key texts. We will have a particular focus on letter formation - initially practicing on c, o, a, d, g, q, e, s, f.

**Our key texts:** 'It's Winter!' By Renee Kurilla; 'Lost & Found' by Oliver Jeffers, 'Jonty Gentoo' by Julia Donaldson; 'The Emperor's Egg' by Martin Jenkins; 'Say Hello to the Snowy Animals' by Ian Whybrow

### *Maths*

We will be comparing numbers to 5, and looking at the composition of numbers to 5, (exploring how numbers are made up of different combinations of smaller numbers.) We will also be looking at the concept zero as an empty set, before we start to explore the number 6, 7 and 8.

### *Topic work*

We will be making and exploring ice, focusing on how it feels, and observing what happens when it warms up. We will carry out various creative activities making snowmen, winter trees, robins and polar animals using different techniques and media. We will be looking at the coldest parts of the world, including the Arctic and Antarctica and exploring their differences, particularly the animals.

### *Ways you can help*

We would welcome any resources you may have related to winter and polar animals including any stories we can share. Please remember to name these items so we can return them to you at the end of our topic. Please remember to note in your child's reading record every time you hear them practising their reading and make sure the reading record is in the book bag everyday with the child's reading book. Please ensure you are encouraging children to zip up their coat by themselves at home - this is important for their independence.

### *Reminders*

- ❖ Don't forget to send your child's PE bag to school with them as we will be starting PE again this week.
- ❖ The weather has turned much colder this week. Please make sure your child is wearing a warm coat and has a named hat and gloves as they spend significant parts of the day outside.
- ❖ **Wrens library** day has been changed to **Thursday** afternoon
- ❖ **Robins** will start **forest school** next week, **Tues 13<sup>th</sup> January** and will continue every Tuesday. Please ensure the children come with appropriate forest school clothing on this day.