

Woodpecker Hall Academy Learning Web – Reception Autumn 2

Force for positive change:

Helping our local community – WHA Food Bank Visit

Key dates:

Winter Fair 13th December

Winter Songs Performance – Date TBC

Communication and Language:

This half term, we'll be exploring a range of winter-themed topics with the children.

We'll be talking about winter clothing, changes in the weather and the changes they see in the environment as the seasons shift.

They'll have opportunities to share their holiday experiences, learn new vocabulary through daily word activities, and describe what they're doing during ice play and transport-themed exploration.



Personal, Social Emotional Development

We will be revisiting important social and emotional learning skills with the children.

We'll encourage them to take on new challenges, make new friends during play, and use yoga and social stories to support a positive mindset, kindness, and self-awareness. Throughout, we'll celebrate each child's unique strengths and help them continue to grow in confidence and empathy.



Physical Development

This half term, we'll be supporting children's physical development through fun and active learning.

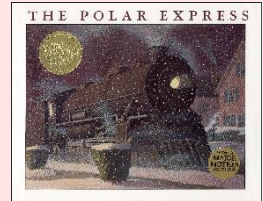
We'll focus on both gross and fine motor skills with activities that get children moving and using their hands in different ways. In PE, the focus will be on ball skills—practising rolling, bouncing, underarm throwing, aiming at targets, and catching to improve coordination and control.



Literacy

In Literacy, we'll be exploring a range of exciting texts to spark children's imagination and develop key skills.

We'll begin with a winter poem by Nicolette Linnert, where children will spot rhyming words and create actions to go with the poem. As we read *Blue Penguin* and *The Polar Express*, children will practise retelling the stories aloud and take part in guided writing activities to build their confidence in using language and structure in their own writing.



Maths

This half term in Maths, the children will be building confidence with numbers 0–10 through fun and practical activities.

They'll revisit number recognition using subitising games and answer simple reasoning questions to develop their thinking skills.

We'll practise correct number formation, compare quantities using balance scales, and explore the concepts of "one more" and "one less."



Expressive Art and Design

The children will create beautiful henna patterns inspired by Diwali and practice their cutting skills. In art, they'll design winter jumpers using felt and other materials. In Music, the children will revisit the seasons song, learn and sing a variety of action songs, and explore playing untuned percussion instruments. Their learning will conclude with opportunities to perform together as a group.



Understanding the World

This half term, we'll be exploring cold places around the world, including the Arctic and Antarctic, using globes and Google Earth.

We'll compare the winter weather and clothing we use locally with those in these icy regions, and learn about animals that live there and how they adapt to the cold. Children will also take part in weekly forest garden sessions, where they'll focus on health, sustainability, and good hygiene habits. We'll gently introduce the topic of homelessness as part of our learning about caring for others.

To connect our learning, we'll explore how the features of winter link to what we've previously studied about travel and transport.



Spanish

The children will continue their weekly exploration of the Spanish language. They'll recap greetings like saying hello and start learning simple phrases such as "How are you?" to build their confidence in speaking Spanish.



