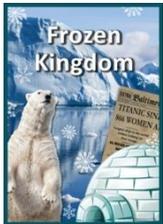


Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you have enjoyed a fun-filled, festive 2-week break and are refreshed for the new term ahead. This term, we welcome two new members to our class. I am thrilled to have Aiden and Naia join us! We will begin the term with remote learning and I am pleased that Gingko Class had a chance to get used to the Zoom meets and working on SEESAW before the Christmas holidays.

Learning



Our topic is 'Frozen Kingdom'. This half term, we will be using globes and maps to identify the polar regions, comparing the Arctic and Antarctic. We'll also think about how we can protect the polar environment. When we're more familiar with the polar regions, we will research polar animals and find out how they are adapted to their harsh environments. We'll create animal artwork inspired by the Inuit people and experiment with brusho techniques to create amazing effects using paints. German sessions will be group dependent; we will be covering the topics of 'Celebrations' and 'A visit to a Café'.

During music sessions, we will be studying Benjamin Britten's 'A New Year's Carol'. In 1934, he wrote a series of 12 songs for the school in Wales where his brother was a teacher. These songs, called Friday Afternoons (that was when pupils had their singing practice), started a long process of writing music for schools and Britten's lifelong interest in music for young people and in music education. Britten set to music text by many different poets and authors. The music always illustrates beautifully the mood of the text. All the songs are accompanied by the piano. When Britten composed these songs, they would have felt very contemporary to the children, just as it does when we sing the latest pop songs at school today.

PE

PE will continue every **Monday**. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school on this day. This half term the children will be focussing on gymnastics. It is essential that the children have a **water bottle** and a change of trainers in school.



Forest School

KS2 forest school sessions will continue to take place **every Thursday** morning. Children may wear their base layers into school and keep them on for the rest of the day. A change of shoes is **essential** to ensure that we do not bring too much of the forest back into the classrooms with us! This may be their PE trainers, so they must be in school to change into. As always, long sleeves and waterproof long trousers are **essential** throughout the school year, when we are in the forest. Winter hats, gloves, scarves and extra layers are also going to be necessary, as the weather will remain cold for the next few months.

Doodle Package

As a school, we subscribe to the Doodle maths and English packages. Your child has a login for the full package, which includes maths, English, spelling and times tables apps. The app will learn and adapt to suit your child's needs. It is also able to coach and support them through any difficult questions by providing hints and tips. Using the apps daily enables them to keep their progress in the green zone.



Homework

We will share homework from the homework grid on a **Friday** morning. In addition to the homework grid, children are still required to read **daily**. This term we will begin reading a new class text- 'Race to the Frozen North', which they will also need to read a portion of each night so that they can complete the response tasks in school, the next day. I will let them know which chapters they need to read each day and send a message on Seesaw for your information. There will also be a task to complete for their literature circle every **Friday**, based on the book that they are reading.



Seesaw App

The Seesaw app will continue to be a vital tool for us. I will use it to upload pictures, work and suggested homework activities/discussions as well as tasks for your child to complete, should they be isolating and working from home.



As always, Mums and Dads, if you would like to raise a question or concern, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the office for a Zoom call, send me a message on Seesaw, or catch me on the playground at home time.

Best regards,

Laura Wendt