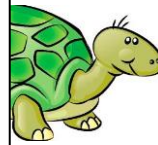


Hi, we are the
Joyful Giraffes and
our teacher is Mrs
Wood-Stones!



Hi, we are the
Terrific Turtles
and our teachers
are Mrs Anderson
and Mr Price!



Hi, we are the
Busy Bees and our
teachers is
Mrs Carroll!



What are we learning this half term?

Our topics for this half term and how you can help at home:

Winter: We have enjoyed beginning to explore the season of winter and the changes to the temperature, weather and environment. We have been exploring frost and ice in our outdoor area and been thinking about how animals survive in winter using key vocabulary, such as hibernate and migrate. We have thought about the appropriate clothing to wear at winter time and shared the story 'Winter Sleep' to further enhance our learning. You might like to go on a wintry walk and discuss what you can see. You might even want to create a piece of frozen art using natural resources. Please remember to share any amazing learning with us in school. Key vocabulary: *cold, icy, frozen, hibernate, season, migrate, temperature, winter, deciduous, evergreen*



Penguins: We are looking forward to sharing the story of 'Blue Penguin' and thinking about the different feelings of the main character and how the other penguins treat him. We will learn that Blue Penguin makes a friend and embraces who he is. We will explore where penguins live, what they look like and what they eat using non-fiction books and the internet. You might like to do your own research at home. Please remember to share any amazing learning with us in school.

Key vocabulary: *penguin, bird, South Pole, waddle, swim, fish, bill, egg, dive, flipper, webbed, Antarctica*

Polar bears: We will be looking at non-fiction books to find out about polar bears and learning how they live and what they like to do. Our key text will be 'The Polar Bear Son'. We will think about global warming using a book called 'The Trouble with Dragons' and consider how we can make small changes at home and school to stop the ice caps from melting. We are very excited to have some polar bear experts joining us from Yorkshire Wildlife Park at the end of this half term.

Key vocabulary: *paw, carnivore, blubber, fur, claws, seals, ice, North Pole, Inuit, teeth, global warming, mammal, translucent*

Freezing and melting: The children will be involved in planning and carrying out scientific investigations. Our ice investigations are always a favourite! Make the most of the winter season and go outside and talk to your child about snow and ice and the melting and freezing processes. Why not experiment at home by making your own ice cubes or ice lollies? You could keep updated by checking the daily weather forecasts together.

Key vocabulary: *ice, solid, liquid, melt, frozen, smooth, cold, frost, warm, hard, change, freezing*

Our Christian Value this half term is **Perseverance**. We will be talking about this in school through different challenges where we can 'keep on trying' and 'not give in'. We will be thinking about the learning muscle story of 'Deema Duck' where she persevered until she reached her goal. You might like stretch your perseverance learning muscle at home too. We will also be handing out sparkly stickers for children who are spotted stretching their perseverance learning muscle this half term.

Key vocabulary: *try, persevere, tricky, goal, help, share, teamwork, steps, succeed, improve*

R.E: Our RE big question this half term is 'Where do we belong?' The children will be exploring and sharing their thoughts about our big question during this half term. We will explore how a baby is welcomed into a family and also how Christians welcome babies into the church family through baptism and dedication. We will also look at how Hindus celebrate the bond between siblings during the festival Raksha Bandhan.

Key vocabulary: *God, belong, beliefs, different, similar, Bible, welcome, baby, family, siblings, love, protection*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This year Chinese New Year begins on 29th January, we will be celebrating this event on the 28th January. It is the year of the Snake. It is an exciting festival, which is celebrated worldwide. In Foundation Stage, we will be finding out about Chinese New Year traditions. We will be exploring Chinese food, creating lanterns and money wallets, dragon dancing and lots of other exciting activities. Mrs Carroll and the Bees will be leading our wonderful Chinese New Year collective worship.

Our One Life focus for this half term is '**We enjoy a challenge!**' We will be exploring how everyone makes mistakes and the importance of forgiveness and 'bouncing back' by letting things go. We have to know our emotions well (happy, sad, frustrated, angry etc) and learn how to manage these. We also need to show respect and care within our friendships and understand that forgiveness is important for the ups and downs. We will also look at how looking after our bodies can help us bounce back physically and the importance of good sleep, eating and looking after our teeth.

Key vocabulary: *bouncing back, forgiveness, relationships, respect, friendships, self-care*

Please use the key vocabulary with your child as often as you can. You might want to investigate what these words meaning using the internet or a dictionary.



Home Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everybody back and to wish you all a Happy New Year. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and now feel refreshed to start another term with us in school. We are certainly looking forward to 2025. We have been so proud of how well the children have settled and their enthusiasm towards our new topic.

We strive to continue to provide the very best education for all our children and we are looking forward to working closely with you at home. Your continued hard work at home and the work your child does in school provides them with the early basic skills that are essential for later life.

P.E.

This half term the children will be developing their hand-eye coordination and their ability to strike an object with their hands and a piece of equipment. They will be stretching their 'perseverance' and 'be brave' learning muscles. Please can we ask that your child comes to school dressed in PE kit. PE kit for the weather consists of blue or black joggers, a white t-shirt and plain blue/black zip up jacket (which are fully named please). Thank you.

ACE ATTENDERS

We had lots of children with a total of 96% or above attendance for the full Autumn Term.

It is important that to remember that: **A MISSED DAY = LOST LEARNING**

Please can we remind you that if your child is absent from school you must phone the school office on the same day by 9.30am.

Mrs Ballance, our learning mentor, will be once again closely tracking the attendance and punctuality of all our children.

This term we are hoping that all children in the Foundation Stage can reach our 96% attendance target.

Library

We have a wonderful school library that the children are able to visit on a regular basis.

Please can you make sure that your child brings their library book in their book bag every Monday. This means that their book can be changed during the week. If you have misplaced your library book, please let your child's class teacher know.

Thank you.

All help appreciated...

We are always eager to recruit volunteers within Foundation Stage. If you could spare any time at all during the week to come into school and help out, we would love to hear from you! Please let your child's class teacher know if you are available.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

National Storytelling Week 2024 (1st - 9th February)

We will be exploring a variety of exciting stories throughout this half term and developing our love of reading and retelling our favourite stories. Please can you read and share stories with your child at least **three times a week** and make sure that you record this in your child's orange book. Reading is a **crucial** partnership between home and school.

Also, we are looking to recruit some parents/carers to become a 'secret reader.' We would like you to come into class to share and read your favourite story in our class families. If you would like to take part, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Please feel free to come and see us at the end of any school day.
Our classroom doors are always open!

A big thank you to everyone!

Mrs Anderson, Mrs Carroll, Mrs Wood-Stones, Mr Price and the Foundation Team.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 14th January - UFS Multi-sports club starts w/c 1st February - National storytelling week
- 28th January - Celebrating Chinese New Year
- 28th January - Mrs Carroll class collective worship (9am in the school hall)
- 3rd Feb - UFS Reading Café 3:15 in the hall
- W/C 3rd February - Children's Mental Health week
- 11th February - Safer internet day
- 11th February - Yorkshire Wildlife Park Polar bear workshops
- 7th February - NSPCC number day
- 13th February - School closes at 3:15pm for the half term.
- 14th February - INSET - school closed for children

More information to follow on the upcoming events