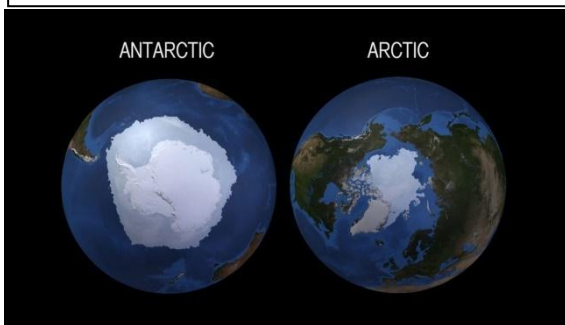


# Poles Apart

Our first topic of Year 4 covers a wide variety of learning content. Across the two terms, we will explore the questions: How is global warming effecting the Ice caps? Why are the polar regions so dangerous? Who has explored these environments and what have we learned from them?

In Term 1, we will focus on the geography of the polar regions, looking into what defines a polar biome and the impact we are having on the ice caps. We will also explore how life can survive and even thrive in this area of the world.

In Term 2, we will focus on the History element of our topic, learning about explorers like Ernest Shackleton and the disaster of the Titanic.



## Maths

To begin the year, we will be focusing on Place Value heavily. Once children have revisited counting and representing numbers, we move on to begin addition and subtraction methods. Please see the Year 4 knowledge organisers for a further breakdown of these small steps.

Maths homework will be weekly, and children should be encouraged to practice their number facts as much as possible at home. These include number bonds to 100, mental addition facts within two digit numbers and times tables facts.

## Times Tables:

As you may know, children in Year 4 will sit a Multiplication Tables Check at the end of the year. To prepare for this, times tables are high up on our priorities across the year. We will be learning our rolling numbers and reciting them daily, and the children will be given regularly weekly times tables quizzes. We will also run competitions across the Terms. Please ensure you are practicing times tables recall at home as much as possible, including out of numerical order.

## English

Much of our writing will be based around our topic and will begin with lots of oral rehearsal to ensure children are ready to write before we look at different genres across the year.

For a full breakdown of our SPAG knowledge organisers, please check the website regularly for updates or speak to Miss Weatherstone.

We have a number of fabulous books to explore; focusing first on *The Frozen Sea*. During our reading lessons, we will be using a variety of VIPERS texts to immerse the children in different genres whilst encouraging them to access a range of questions designed to provoke deeper understanding and analysis of texts.

Reading at home daily is one of the most important things you can do to support your child!

**PE** - PE day in Term 1 will be on a **Tuesday and Thursday with Coach Tom**.

## RE

The RE curriculum begins with creation, where the children will explore possible responses to the question "What do Christians learn about the Creation story?" they will develop their critical analysis skills and be encouraged to reflect and create.

In Term 2, we move on to Incarnation. The children will explore the question "What is the trinity?"

## Science

Our topic for Term 1 is States of matter, with close links to the Geography topic. We will be exploring the question "Is water wet?" the children will be able to explain the water cycle and the difference in properties between solids, liquids and gases.

For Term 2, our learning will focus on the theme "Are living things in danger?" where the children will learn about Living things and their Habitats – Conservation.

## PSHRE

In Term 1 and 2, we will be focusing on the **Family strand** of our PSHRE learning including single parents, foster parents, same-sex parents, Step-parents and blended families.

Additionally, our Heart Smart topic is "Getting Heart Smart".

## Art

We will be studying the work of Brazilian artist and sculptor Nele Azevedo and will work together to plan, design, and then make ice sculpture projects. We will learn the significance of temporary art and discuss how special it is.

We will also begin our work on art inspired by leading Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak which will continue in Term 2.



## Spanish

Across term 1 and 2 we will revisit some of the core language the children learned in Year 3 (asking and answering their name, where they live, greetings, days of the week, months of the year, classroom instructions, numbers and age).

Should you have any questions about your child's learning, then do come in and see me. Use Class Dojo or email me at:

[lweatherstone@st-michaels-tenterden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lweatherstone@st-michaels-tenterden.kent.sch.uk)

Alternatively make an appointment via Mrs Hollis in the office.

Miss Weatherstone

## Music

Our topic in Term 1 is "Mamma Mia" in which we will be exploring the Pop genre and looking specifically at songs sung by the Artist Abba.

Music in Term 2 Focuses on learning how to play the Glockenspiel, along with a heavy focus on our Christmas themed music lessons.

## Home Learning

We are asking parents to concentrate their support on the following:

**Reading for at least 30 minutes per day.** This can be independent reading, but children will always benefit from being heard read on a regular basis. Encourage your child to make predictions about what might happen next and get them to show you their understanding of the text by asking appropriate questions.

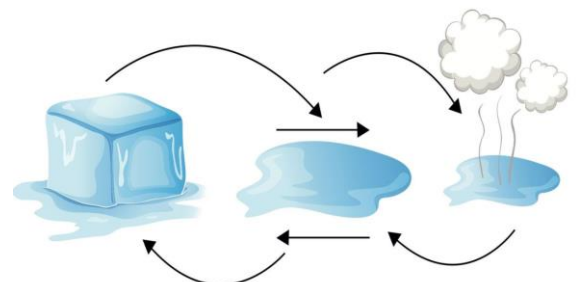
Audio books can be a great way to expose children to great literature – on a long journey or even as a bedtime story, audio books are fantastic. Try to encourage your child to read a variety of genres and a mix of authors. Comics, magazines, newspapers and reference books all support the reading journey.

**We will now be using a Website called Track Mt Read so the children can record the minutes they read at home digitally and be rewarded for their efforts.**

**Practising times tables** – particularly the table we are learning that week, but regular practice of other tables too. We Will be using a website called Maths Frame for this.

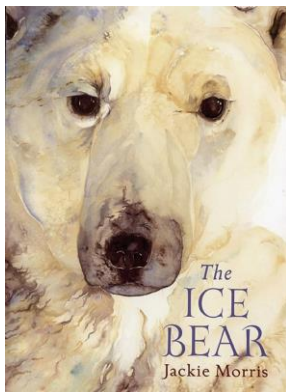
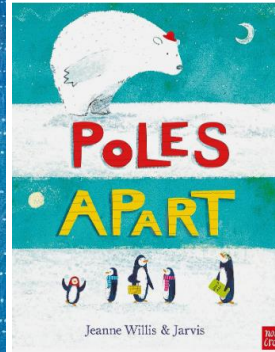
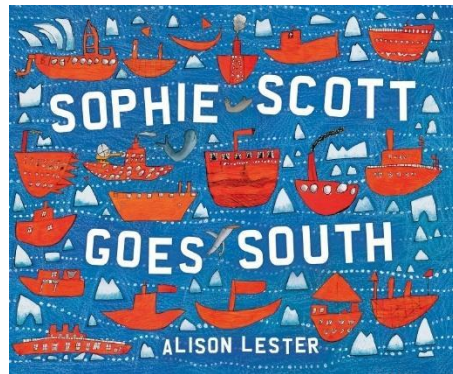
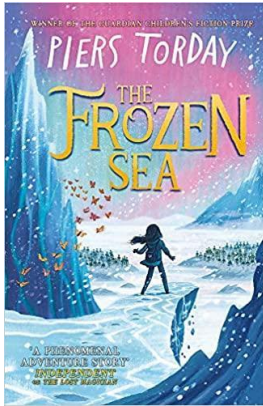
**Learning spellings.** Please practise the weekly spellings on Spelling Frame.

**Spelling tests will be on a Friday.**



Books we will be using for this topic:

Term 1



Term 2

