



**DORMICE AND ROBINS
CURRICULUM LETTER SPRING 2017
'Home and Away'**



We hope that you have all had an enjoyable holiday and wish you a very happy new year. Your children are now well settled into school. If you haven't yet returned the comments part of the interim reports, please do send them in - your feedback is much appreciated.

This term we are planning lots of exciting learning for your children! Our topic for the term is entitled- '**Home and Away**'- it will be divided into three themes covering different geographical areas, followed by a short block about Easter. This will help to develop the children's understanding of different places and cultures as well as developing a deeper understanding of their own British culture. Below is an outline of what we have planned which will be added to each week by the children's own planning.

Theme 1- The Arctic (2.5 weeks)

In this work we will use a variety of stories about polar bears as a stimulus for our learning. Hopefully we will have lots of frosty days when we can get outside to inspire some winter poetry. We will learn about freezing and melting and build our own igloos. We will learn how it is to live in really cold places. Our maths work will focus on counting and sorting in twos- scarves, boots, gloves etc. We will make some frozen food such as ice lollies and frozen fruit smoothies. We would be grateful if you could send in any old hats, gloves etc so that we can make a winter clothes shop.

Theme 2- China (3 weeks)

Our topic about China will use key texts such as *The Magic Paintbrush* by Julia Donaldson to stimulate our learning. We will taste and cook some Chinese food. We are hoping to learn how key events such as Chinese New Year are celebrated. We are planning to hold a Chinese banquet! Our maths learning will focus on ordinal numbers, sharing and money.

Theme 3- Plymouth and London (4 weeks)

Our third theme will be about our own town and country. This topic will have lots of opportunities for music-making and performance as we will learn poems and songs about London. They will follow the Ivybridge Trail, learn about Plymouth, look at London landmarks and find out about the Queen. This part of our topic will have lots of opportunities for map-making and modelling. We are hoping to visit Plymouth Hoe and the Waterfront and travel by boat across Plymouth Sound.

Theme 4- Easter (2 weeks)

This will provide a context for the Easter story and a visit to the church. We are planning to create Easter gardens and learn how eggs grow into chicks.

During the term the children will continue to have daily phonics lessons as well as regular shared reading and writing opportunities. Every day they will also have opportunities to develop physical skills outside. Jo Jingles will continue on Thursdays. We are hoping that your children will all be coming in to school all by themselves so that they develop further independence.

Helping at home

Please continue to use the home-school books to let us know about home learning. We expect that all children will read at home and continue to learn their keywords. We endeavour to regularly change books but please pop in if ever you would like more books. If you have anything that you feel would add to the topics above, please let us know. Please send in any WOW moments. Hugs will continue to come home for the weekends - thank you so much for your support with this, it is an important part of our learning and the children love hearing about Hugs' adventures.

Key dates

Half Term- 13th-17th February

Book week- Week beginning 27th March to include World Book day 2nd March

Coffee Afternoon- Monday 27th March 2.15 –Focus on Handwriting

M & M Productions, performance of The Railway Children – 28th March

Mother's Day Assembly- Friday 24th March 10am

Easter Tea-30th March

Finally, could we make a plea for your clean 4 pint milk containers as we want to build an igloo on our decking. Also, we would be really grateful for some help for the first half an hour of the day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week. This would help us tremendously with book changing.

Thank you very much for all your support. If you have any queries, please ask. Finally, we are always grateful for help in class, particularly with welly walks as we can only manage these with additional help and they really do give purpose to our learning!

Best wishes,

Dormice Team.