

St Joseph's Pre School
Spring 1 – Hot and Cold

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Communication and Language	Understanding the World	Literacy	Maths	Expressive Arts and Design	Key Texts and Vocabulary
Children will: - Explore themes of friendship, helping and caring from the core texts. - Build confidence sharing ideas about animals and environments. - Work collaboratively during sensory play and construction. - Begin to understand how animals need different things to stay safe. - Develop empathy through discussing the penguin's feelings in	Children will: - Strengthen fine motor skills through ice breaking, pipettes, tweezers, painting and collage. - Develop gross motor skills through animal-themed movement (waddling like penguins, flying like parrots). - Explore warm and cold materials safely. - Practise independence in dressing for outdoor weather. Key experiences: - Ice rescue activities (freeing	Children will: - Learn and use vocabulary linked to hot, cold, ice, snow, sun, rainforest, ocean, penguins and parrots. - Talk about the settings and journeys in <i>Lost and Found</i> and <i>The Snail and the Whale</i>. - Describe what they notice during ice melting, water play and sensory exploration. - Engage in small-group discussions about animals and habitats.	Children will: - Learn about hot and cold places around the world. - Explore how ice melts and water changes. - Compare penguins and parrots (habitat, diet, movement, appearance). - Use simple technology (torches, lights, globes, videos) to explore environments. - Talk about oceans, islands, rainforests and polar regions. Key experiences: - Ice melting experiments.	Children will: - Enjoy and engage with <i>Lost and Found</i> and <i>The Snail and the Whale</i>. - Sequence events from the stories. - Create marks, drawings and early writing linked to animals and journeys. - Recognise and write their names on artwork	Children will: - Count animals, footprints, ice cubes and objects in sensory trays. - Compare sizes, lengths and weights (big whale, small penguin, long parrot feathers). - Explore patterns using warm and cold colours. - Use positional language when placing animals in habitats. Key experiences:	- Create penguin and parrot artwork using a range of materials. - Explore warm and cold colour palettes. - Engage in imaginative role play (polar explorers, rainforest adventurers). - Use music and movement to represent hot and cold environments. Key experiences: - Penguin collage with black/white materials.	hot, cold, warm, freeze, melt, ice, snow, sun, rainforest, ocean, island, penguin, parrot, feathers, beak, flippers, habitat, journey, travel, explore, big, small Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson



St Joseph's Pre School

Spring 1 – Hot and Cold

<i>Lost and Found.</i> Key experiences: • Friendship discussions linked to the boy and the penguin. • Working together to build ice worlds or rainforest habitats. • Talking about how we care for animals and each other. • Role play based on journeys and helping others	animals from ice). • Penguin and parrot movement games. • Painting with cold colours (blues/whites) and warm colours (reds/yellows). • Using tools to chip, scoop and pour.	• Follow instructions during experiments and creative activities. Key experiences: • Story retelling with props. • Describing ice, snow dough and warm water. • Talking about how penguins and parrots are different. • Using globes, maps and pictures to talk about places.	• Exploring globes and maps. • Watching short clips of penguins and parrots. • Creating small-world polar and rainforest habitats.	and models. Key experiences: • Story maps for both books. • Drawing penguins and parrots. • Making "journey tickets" or postcards. • Labelling habitats or animal features.	• Sorting animals into hot/cold habitats. • Measuring melting times. • Creating feather patterns. • Counting penguins in small-world play.	• Parrot feather printing. • Fire and ice dance sessions. • Building boats, igloos or rainforest trees.	Betty and the Yeti by Ella Burfoot Big Bear, Little Bear by David Bedford North Pole/South Pole – Nic Jones
--	--	---	--	--	---	---	--

Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum intent for this topic is to help children explore and understand contrasting environments through rich, meaningful and story-based learning. By using *Lost and Found* and *The Snail and the Whale*, children are introduced to ideas of journeys, friendship, caring for others and discovering new places. Through a focus on penguins and parrots, children learn how animals live in different climates, what they need to survive, and how their habitats shape their behaviour and appearance.

The topic aims to build children's early scientific understanding of hot and cold, melting and freezing, and the natural world. It supports vocabulary development, curiosity, creativity and emotional literacy. Children will compare environments such as the polar regions, oceans and rainforests, developing awareness of the wider world and the diversity of God's creation. Through sensory exploration, imaginative play and hands-on investigation, children will deepen their understanding of climate, animals and habitats while strengthening communication, social skills and early problem-solving.



St Joseph's Pre School
Spring 1 – Hot and Cold

