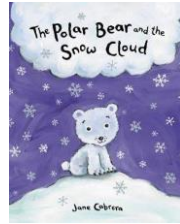




## Reception Newsletter- Week beginning: 29.01.24

Term 3 topic- What happens in our world?

Our story of the week- The Polar Bear and the Snow Cloud



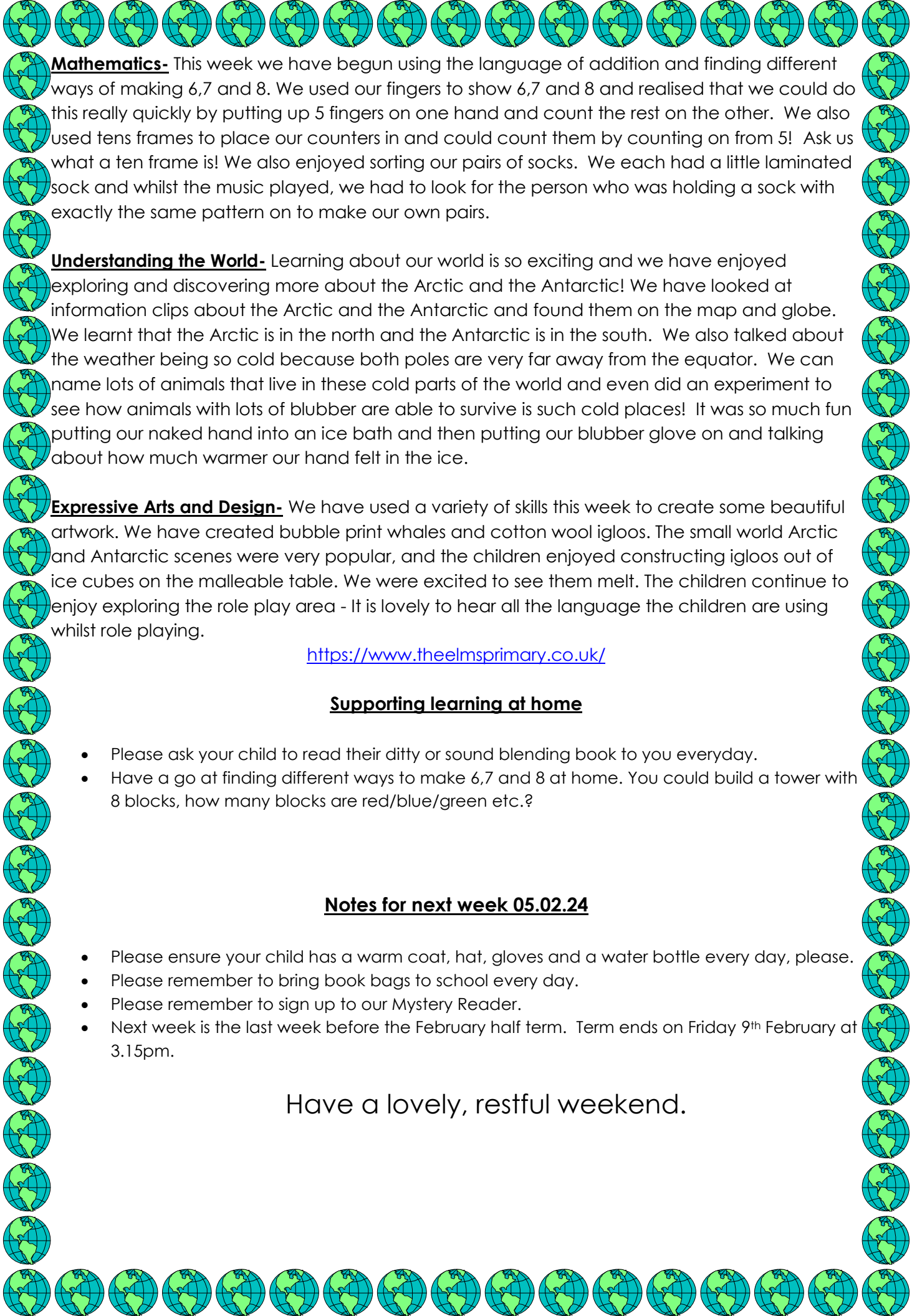
**What an exciting week we have had! We are pleased that the weather has warmed up slightly so we didn't feel like we were in the Arctic or the Antarctic!**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development-** As always, we look out for each other and work as a team. Tis week in 'jigsaw', we continued with our 'Dreams and Goals' theme. We thought about and discussed the following – Is it a good thing to say unkind things to our friends? How does it make you feel when someone says something nice to you? We passed Jigsaw Jenie around the circle and thought about what we are good at.

**Communication and Language-** We are becoming more confident in speaking in front of our friends and our teachers – sometimes our teachers find it hard to stop us! We are also practising being good listeners as it is very important to listen to what others say too. We love to hear all about what Barnaby Bear has been up to. This week we have been finding out about the Arctic, Antarctica and cold climates and have learnt lots of new words; iceberg, icicle, camouflage, hibernating, blubber. Ask us why the polar bear and penguin are not friends, or why many of the animals are white and fluffy.

**Physical Development-** We enjoy playing with various sports equipment when outside and we particularly enjoy creating different obstacle courses. We are getting good at waiting our turn and moving slowly and carefully to stay safe. Using a variety of construction materials, drawing and writing, building igloos with ice cubes and using scissors have all helped to develop our fine motors skills this week. These activities all help us to develop our muscles and strengthen our hands and fingers ready for writing. In PE, we have continued with our gymnastics topic and we enjoyed working in partners, copying each other's shapes in a mirror image. We all had our own mat and followed each other really well.

**Literacy-** We have really enjoyed reading the book "The Polar Bear and the Snow Cloud." We wrote a list of all the things we would need if we went on holiday to Antarctica! We didn't fancy it much! Phonics assessments have been completed this week and we have all made Mrs Howell super proud with our reading progress! We practise so hard every day at school and are looking forward to moving up into our new groups. Please keep your eye out for a letter explaining what group your child will be in next term for phonics and what reading material to expect from this group. We continue to enjoy writing in our writing areas, in the role play areas and using clip boards, post its, notepads and whiteboards. We enjoy practising our letter formation and we have also written simple sentences during phonics.



**Mathematics-** This week we have begun using the language of addition and finding different ways of making 6,7 and 8. We used our fingers to show 6,7 and 8 and realised that we could do this really quickly by putting up 5 fingers on one hand and count the rest on the other. We also used tens frames to place our counters in and could count them by counting on from 5! Ask us what a ten frame is! We also enjoyed sorting our pairs of socks. We each had a little laminated sock and whilst the music played, we had to look for the person who was holding a sock with exactly the same pattern on to make our own pairs.

**Understanding the World-** Learning about our world is so exciting and we have enjoyed exploring and discovering more about the Arctic and the Antarctic! We have looked at information clips about the Arctic and the Antarctic and found them on the map and globe. We learnt that the Arctic is in the north and the Antarctic is in the south. We also talked about the weather being so cold because both poles are very far away from the equator. We can name lots of animals that live in these cold parts of the world and even did an experiment to see how animals with lots of blubber are able to survive in such cold places! It was so much fun putting our naked hand into an ice bath and then putting our blubber glove on and talking about how much warmer our hand felt in the ice.

**Expressive Arts and Design-** We have used a variety of skills this week to create some beautiful artwork. We have created bubble print whales and cotton wool igloos. The small world Arctic and Antarctic scenes were very popular, and the children enjoyed constructing igloos out of ice cubes on the malleable table. We were excited to see them melt. The children continue to enjoy exploring the role play area - It is lovely to hear all the language the children are using whilst role playing.

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### **Supporting learning at home**

- Please ask your child to read their ditty or sound blending book to you everyday.
- Have a go at finding different ways to make 6,7 and 8 at home. You could build a tower with 8 blocks, how many blocks are red/blue/green etc.?

### **Notes for next week 05.02.24**

- Please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves and a water bottle every day, please.
- Please remember to bring book bags to school every day.
- Please remember to sign up to our Mystery Reader.
- Next week is the last week before the February half term. Term ends on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 3.15pm.

Have a lovely, restful weekend.