

### Literacy

The children will begin this unit by reading Shackleton's job advertisement – a plea asking for men to join his expedition. Having read the advert, the children will take part in a conscience alley to determine how they might respond. Following this, they will re-write Shackleton's advert (with a positive twist) using a range of persuasive techniques including: emotive language, repetition, the rule of 3 and by speaking directly to the reader. The children will learn that Shackleton employed 26 crew members – each with a different role. They will discover more about specific members including the cook, Charles Green, and the photographer, Frank Hurley. The children will then write their second letter, this time in role as one of the crew members, trying to persuade Shackleton that they are a strong candidate for the role.

The children will learn that the crew set sail from Plymouth to Buenos Aires where they picked up more crew members – including a stowaway! The children will write a diary entry in role as the stowaway, Perce Blackborrow, to detail his entry on board the Endurance. They will then follow this with a recount of his experience at sea describing his feelings and emotions as a rogue crew member.

As the children follow Shackleton's journey through the Weddell sea, they will consider the challenging conditions that the crew faced. Understanding the importance of morale, the children will write a speech, in role as Shackleton, urging his crew remembers to remain positive!

### Geography

In their study of Ernest Shackleton's expedition, the children will use maps to plot Shackleton's journey from Plymouth to Buenos Aires and then onto Antarctica, locating the world's countries as they go. Following Shackleton's story, they will learn about the seas, oceans, ice-shelves and mountains in and around Antarctica with a particular focus on the Weddell sea. Within this unit, the children will also compare climate zones and biomes – specifically sand deserts and ice deserts. In particular, they will focus on what constitutes a desert. Then, the children will compare the similarities and differences between a hot and cold desert, using the Sahara and Antarctica as a focus for our study.

### Art and Design

Having been introduced to one-point simple perspective (a single vanishing point along the horizon) by studying Vincent Van Gogh's 'The Bedroom' and David Hockney's 'Late Spring Tunnel,' the children will begin to use one-point simple perspective themselves in their drawings of the Weddell Sea.

### Mathematics

This half term, the children will be introduced to line graphs and will learn to interpret them in order to solve comparison, sum and difference problems. Using these skills, they will interpret the data collected during their science investigations, focusing on graphs representing temperature.

Moving onto fractions, the children will learn to:

- Recognise equivalent fractions
- Convert improper fractions to mixed numbers
- Convert mixed numbers to improper fractions
- Compare and order fractions less than/greater than 1
- Add fractions within 1 as well as fractions with a total greater than 1
- Add and subtract to/from a mixed number
- Add and subtract two mixed numbers
- Subtract from a mixed number, breaking the whole.

### Religious Education

In their Catholic Social Teaching unit, the children will be introduced to the concept of reaching out to the marginalised in society and consider how they can be included. During Advent, the children will connect the coming of Jesus with the promise revealed in the Old Testament and looks at the titles that were given to the expected Messiah in the Old Testament.

# Antarctica



### Enrichment

The children will make their own ship's biscuits or hard tack. These were a vital part of a seaman's diet in the years before the introduction of canned food in the mid-nineteenth century. We will then taste test our biscuits, comparing them to the biscuits that we enjoy today.

### Design Technology

The children will design and make a pair of gloves for an explorer to take with them on a trip to the Antarctic. They will consider the aesthetics and properties of materials in order to choose the ones which best suit the purpose. The children will create a template to ensure that their glove is the correct size and develop their confidence in joining two pieces of material together.

### Science

In Science, the children will investigate the properties of different materials including their thermal conductivity. They will set up and carry out an experiment in which they will investigate a range of materials to discover which is the best insulator. From their results, they will choose which material would be the most appropriate for an explorer to wear on a trip to the Antarctic! The children will also consider how animals from frozen climates stay warm by conducting their own 'blubber experiment'.

### Computing

In this unit, the children will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. They will consider small-scale systems as well as large-scale systems and explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. The children will also discover how information is found on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work (including how they select and rank results) and what influences searching, and through comparing different search engines.

### Physical Education

This half term, the children are fortunate in having a specialist rugby coach coming in to undertake training with them, where they will learn ball skills, tactical game strategies and improve their spatial awareness. They will also be playing a range of indoor ball games that help to further develop these skills.

### Music

Understanding how important musicians were to boost morale on the Endurance, the children will embark on their own musical journey – to learn to play a brass instrument with a specialist teacher. They will learn how to effectively blow to create sound, start to understand differing notes and how to use these in a pattern to create a basic melody.

### PSHE/RHE

Rooted in the teaching that we are made in the image and likeness of God, the children will develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships:

They will learn that celebrating differences between people is enriching to a community and know that their self-confidence should arise from being loved by God. They will learn about the physical changes that boys and girls go through during puberty and how they should respect and take care of their bodies as gifts from God.