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## 12th January 2024

We have had a fantastic return to school this week. It has been a joy to see everyone again after a lovely Christmas break. Our new learning theme of Ice Explorers seems to be catching the children's imaginations already with several children talking about how excited they are to find out more about it in circle time.

To kick off our geography lessons we planned our 'Holy Island expedition' for Monday (15th Jan) - discussing and plotting our route, thinking about what we might see and also considering what we will need to wear / bring with us. We considered different map types and realised that the Ordnance Survey was the most useful for our purposes as it clearly marked the paths we could use. Children will need appropriate clothing for being outdoors most of the day as well as packed lunches / grab & gos. We think wellies will be the best footwear as it may well be quite wet and muddy underfoot. They will also need a backpack to carry their lunch with them.

If the weather is really bad on Monday we will postpone the trip - we will let you know that morning via Facebook and email. However, we have done Holy Island days in January before and hope that we can recreate our successful walk and geese (and other wildlife) spotting activities of previous years. Mrs Stiansen is hopeful of spotting dolphins from Emmanuel Head and the rest of us will be keeping a sharp lookout for polar bears.... 



Mrs Cochrane has written a special music plan all about music inspired by Ice Exploration. To contribute towards creating music which best brings to mind cold climates, we have ordered some boomwhackers and some howling tubes. We can't wait for them to arrive! In French the children will be learning how to talk about where they live and vocabulary linked to houses / buildings.

## Upcoming changes to childcare support

Starting from April 2024, existing childcare support will be expanded in phases. By September 2025, most working families with children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare support.

The changes are being introduced gradually to make sure that providers can meet the needs of more families. This means that:

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.

From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months (2 years in our Nursery) to 3-year-olds.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

If you are applying for the 15 hours funding for working parents, this will be available to apply from 15 Jan - 28 Feb 2024. For further information please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>. If you are eligible you will receive a code and you will need to complete a parent declaration form, please request this from the school office. Any changes in hours you will also need to notify us by completing a change in hours form, we ask for 4 weeks notice for this.

We also offer tax free childcare, for every £8 you pay in, the government will add £2, this can also be used in addition to funded hours. We are happy to help with any information regarding setting this up.



## Dates for your diary

Monday 15th January: **Holy Island day for everyone** - children will need **warm outdoor clothing and wellies** as we will be walking a lot outdoors on that day. They will also need a **packed lunch or grab & go and a backpack to carry it in** as we will be on the island all day. We will be back in Lowick before 3pm.



Thursday 1st February: trip to **Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh** - everyone is going. We will be late back on that day as we will be leaving at 2.30pm (**estimating 4pm arrival back in Lowick**). Children will need a packed lunch or grab & go and they will need uniform tops on so we can easily spot them around the museum.

Tuesday 6th February - we are hosting the Berwick partnership year 4 transition afternoon at Lowick.

Friday 9th February - we will be celebrating Chinese New Year in school.

Week commencing 19th February - half term week. School is closed. Back to school on 26th February.

Tuesday 27th February - International Polar Bear day!

Thursday 29th February: Key Stage 1 (years 1 & 2) to have their postponed visit to Berwick Literary Festival puppet show at Berwick Guildhall in the morning. They will be back in school for lunch as normal.

Week commencing 4th March; National Science Week. We will be joining live online lessons on Friday 8th March.

Monday 25th March - Year 4 transition event at Scremerston First School in the afternoon.

Friday 29th March: Good Friday bank holiday and first day of the Easter holidays.

Back to school on Monday 15th April.

