

Pupils to follow Arctic adventure

DRAKE'S Primary School youngsters are to take part in a virtual polar expedition after teaming up with two renowned explorers.

In May 2008, Alan Chambers MBE and Peter Herbert will lead what is aiming to be the largest ever British polar expedition, crossing Greenland and one of the world's largest glaciers.

Called Feet of Green, the explorers aim to encourage school children from across the UK to chart their 600 kilometre 40-day journey - in an attempt to bring science, geography and history lessons to life.

Drakes' headteacher Carron Saunders said: "Peter Herbert visited us to talk to the children about his forthcoming Greenland adventure. The children were fascinated, amazed and thoroughly entertained by his presentation, and they had many questions to ask.

By Becca Gliddon

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"Of particular interest were the perils of attack by hungry polar bears, the possibility of breaking an ankle in a blizzard and exactly what happens to fingers and toes when they get frostbitten.

"They admired the sled, skis and snow garments Mr Herbert brought along with him, and bravely tested the high calorie food which will be a major part of the expedition's diet."

During the expedition, while on the ice cap, the team will endure some of the most extreme weather conditions known to man.

While the team is away, Drake's School pupils will follow the expedition through interactive blogs, which will provide updates on the expedition on the run-up to leaving, and during their time on the ice.

Key themes for discussion will include the impact of climate change on wildlife and the wider aspects of global warming.

Mrs Saunders added: "Drake's School will be keeping in touch with Peter Herbert during his expedition and are looking forward very much to receiving regular news of his journey across Greenland."

The expedition has four objectives:

- Focus the attention on the fast changing global environmental challenges that face us all.
- Motivate by example, showing nothing is out of reach.
- Demonstrate to children how determination, commitment, training and ability can enable achievements in sports and adventure.
- Demonstrate how some organisations are investing in a positive way to minimise any negative impact on the natural environment.