

After the Easter break, we hope the children are prepared for a busy term of learning! We are looking forward to sharing our new topic: rainforests. Lots of our English, art and D.T. work will be based around rainforests along with opportunities in other subjects - we will be fully immersing ourselves into this engaging topic.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via the class email if you wish to discuss your child's school life.

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The Rainforest

We will be using a range of geography skills to find out as much as possible about the rainforests of South America with a focus on the Amazon. Using a variety of sources, we will learn about the location, what makes up a rainforest, the impact of deforestation and how important the rainforests are to keeping our planet Earth healthy (the Amazon Rainforest is often called 'the lungs of the world'). This is a fascinating topic sure to grab everyone's attention with so many different strands of learning - what's not to get fired up and enthusiastic about?

Homework

Homework will continue to be given out on a Monday to be completed by the Thursday for both guided reading (on google classroom) and maths (MyMaths).

Please continue to read with your child regularly as it really does make a difference.



Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 13th - Thursday 22nd April - Settling back to school video calls

Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 11th May - road safety visit (outside)
Essex Highways will be visiting us for this practical experience on road safety during the school day.

31st May - 4th June - Half term

Monday 7th June - INSET day

Wednesday 21st July - Last day of term

Guided Reading

Having had a super first term with some wonderful books being studied, the guided reading groups will be introduced to their next challenging novel by their group leader. Each book will be supplemented by non-fiction and poetry texts that will enhance the core book and develop the full range of Year 5 reading skills: inference, information retrieval, summarising texts, expanding vocabulary understanding and meaning in context and making predictions. Many parents like to read the book alongside their child both to help with any homework questions but also to enjoy the rich 'book talk' that can be developed.

PE days

Both P.E. lessons will continue to be outdoors on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will be developing rounders skills leading into playing competitive games and athletics in the second half of the summer term, developing skills in running, jumping and throwing (and possibly mixing in some country dancing which we missed due to spring term online learning!)

Don't forget that now it is warmer, sun hats will be a must have to ensure your child is comfortable and safe. Please see the uniform policy on the school website.

Life skills

Our life skills lessons will focus on growing up and the responsibilities of becoming more independent as we get older. We will also learn about the environment, taking risks and also the effects of puberty on our bodies as we grow. You will be informed when these lessons will be undertaken to prepare adults at home for any questions children may want to ask. Please contact us if you would like to have a conversation about these lessons with your child's class teacher.

Art & DT

Inspired by rainforest animals, in art children will create a collage. We will explore collage using mixed media to create different textures and effects and building layers into our pieces.

Linked to the rainforest and life skills, through the understanding of 'Fair Trade' we hope to make the fairtrade recipe of banana crumble squares. We currently have use of the cabin as it has a purpose built kitchen, so we hope to take advantage of this for our summer DT project.

English

Our geography topic will allow us to take a journey through the rainforest to give the children many opportunities to consolidate their understanding of writing different text types: from narratives to non-fiction. We will focus on linking paragraphs, using advanced punctuation (brackets, dashes, colons and semi colons) and further developing understanding of sentence structures including the technical aspect of identifying the different parts of a sentence, extending simple sentences into complex ones and how to apply this to writing effectively.

The recent addition of Chromebooks to our teaching tools, will give children the opportunity to develop research skills to aid their non-fiction writing.

Computing & Music

We will be using the computer programme 'Moviemaker' this term, learning how to layer a video using the different tools e.g. pictures, text, specials effects and sound.

The soundtrack for their movie will be created in their music lessons inspired by the rainforest.

Using their choice of tuned or untuned instruments, they will compose using pictorial or musical notation and then record.

R.E.

Continuing to study Christianity, we will be learning about the meaning and significance of the Lord's Prayer to Christians and Jesus' teachings.

Finally, we will compare places of worship for different religions.

Maths

Our maths focus will be deepening our understanding of topics and re-visiting those which we covered during our online learning in the spring term to consolidate. We will deepen our understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages and applying our knowledge to a range of problems and investigations. In addition, with the weather getting warmer, we can explore shape and measure in more detail using the outside space for real-life scenarios such as planning out building projects or events and related costs, recipes, collecting, presenting and interpreting data, angles we see outside and exploring the length of shadows hopefully to name but a few!

Please help us to keep times tables knowledge sharp with regular practise.

Science

Our science lessons focus for the first half term on lifecycles of different animals within the seven animal kingdoms, learning the technical vocabulary for the sometimes complex stages of the lifecycles. We will analyse the similarities and differences between them and explore our local environment to see if we can find and identify the stages different animals and insects are in moving into the summer season.

After half term, we will move into physics looking at forces in particular different resistance forces. We will have lots of opportunities to perform experiments to see these forces in action. 'Protect an egg' being one of the favourites where children will design, make and test whilst putting their acquired knowledge of suitable materials and forces to the test - we can't wait!