



Year 1 and 2

Term 3- Rainforests

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely relaxing Christmas and are excited for a new year. We have been so impressed by how hard all the children worked last term and cannot wait to get stuck into this term, where we will be finding out all about the Rainforests. This will include where they can be found, which animals live in the different habitats and how we can preserve them for the future.

Literacy

This term we will be learning the story 'Monkey see, monkey do'. We will learn the story with actions by heart and then innovate parts of the story to make it our own. At the end of the term, we will be looking at non-fiction texts and recognising that these are written to give us information. Year 1s will continue to write in sentences that include 'and' and using their increasing phonic knowledge for spelling. Year 2s will be writing different sentence types and using the correct punctuation for each sentence type (statement, question, command, and exclamation), and ensuring they stick to the same tense when writing either fiction or non-fiction. We will continue to develop handwriting so that all letters are formed correctly; this means children need to start and finish in the correct place on the letter when writing this. Once the letters are being formed correctly and are the correct size, the children will start to join.

Spellings

Spellings will be handed out on a Thursday and tested the following Thursday. Their spelling words will be stuck in their reading diaries. Please help your child to learn these spellings. The words chosen will link to the sounds they have learnt in Phonics. To extend your child you can ensure they understand the meaning of the word and can include it in a sentence either orally or written.

Reading

Children will be heard reading individually, in groups and during whole class reading. When in groups and individually the focus will be on decoding, fluency and their understanding of the text. During whole class reading, they will focus on learning the skills needed to comprehend what they have read. We use the Vipers acronym to guide our teaching of this. As well as a reading book that matches their decoding level, the children now have the option to take a book from our KS1 library. This may be a book they can read or one that they would like to share with you. The children listen to stories daily; this might be a picture book or part of our chapter book. This term we are reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate factory' by Roald Dahl. Book bags and diaries need to be in school every day, so we can record reading that



is done in school. The children's books will be changed at least once a week; please record any home reading in the reading diaries as the children show us their reading diaries each morning. The school competition for the class with the most home reads continues, and the school has been set a target of 40,000 by the end of the school year, let's see if we can smash that target!

Science — Habitats

We will be finding out about the different habitats across the world, then focusing particularly on rainforests as a habitat. We will discover why animals and plants live in different habitats and microhabitats and how they are adapted to survive there. Looking closely at the rainforest we will learn about the different layers of the rainforest and how different animals and plants choose to live here. We will also look at food chains of animals from the rainforest and start to question what would happen if one species is removed or overpopulates.

Maths

We have all started on the Mastering Number project. The aim of this is to develop a good number sense, so that children are more fluent in calculations and have a flexibility with number.

Miss Murray's Maths group will start the term with a unit focusing on money. We look at recognising coins and notes, counting in pounds and pence and finding change. To support your child with this unit of work it would be great if you could give them opportunities to use and handle money. Keeping a piggy bank or money jar is a good way of familiarising children with money. After this topic we will move on to multiplication and division. In Year 2 we look at the 2, 5, 10, 11 and 3 times tables. The work set for your child on Times Tables Rockstar is indicative of the table they are currently learning. When dividing we will look at the difference between 'grouping' and 'sharing' and we will use arrays to support children's understanding. Once division has been taught, your child should be able to have a go at the division questions on Times Tables Rockstars. Mathematics homework for this group will be set every Tuesday, so keep an eye out for that.

Mrs Alleway's and Mrs Parsons' Maths groups will be working on subtraction to 10. When subtracting, we will recognise that we take a part away. Other strategies we will work on when subtracting are counting back and finding the difference. We will be using part-whole models, tens frames and number lines to support us. Using number bonds to 10 we will develop the ability to instantly recall subtraction facts. Then we will move onto recognising and naming 2D and 3D shapes and talking about their properties. We will use the shapes to sort and make patterns.

Mathletics homework will be set weekly for both Year 1 and 2 children. Log ins are inside their reading diaries. The activity will link to what they have done in class. Please support your child but let them do the Maths if possible. Using 'stuff' eg counters, pennies and drawing to help them is very important. Year 2s also have log ins for Timetable Rockstars where they can practise their timetable recall and speed.

Geography

We will be using a range of maps, atlases and globes to locate the seven continents and five oceans of the world. We will learn that we live in Europe and continue with our understanding of where Great Britain is in the world. Through the use of maps, we will begin to recognise what the locations of the world's rainforests have in common. We will consolidate our understanding of human and physical features and link this to rainforests and areas that surround them. We will be finding out what the weather is like and comparing it to our own.

Art

We shall be looking at the French artist Henri Rousseau. We will start off by finding out about him as a person and an artist and about how he liked to paint and his style of paintings. We will be looking closely at his paintings of animals in the jungle and using this as a stimuli to create our own.

PE

This term, the children will be developing their skipping dancing skills. In the Skipping lessons they will be developing their confidence to skip without a rope, then learn the skills to skip with a rope. This will include standing and travelling. They will learn how to jump with the rhythm of the rope and how to hold the rope so they can continuously spin it. This will conclude with circuits using their skipping skills to develop their fitness and stamina.

In Dance the theme is 'story time', where children will be travelling in different ways to the music. They will learn how to change direction and link moves together. This will form a dance pattern that they will then perform to their class.

PE lessons will be on the following days; please make sure your child continues to wear their PE kit to school on the correct days:

Nightingales: Tuesday and Friday

Robins: Wednesday and Friday

RE

This term we will be looking at how other New Year is celebrated by many people in the UK and around the world. We will be particularly looking at how the Jewish New Year celebration of Rosh Hashanah is celebrated.

PSHE — Dreams and Goals

In PSHE we will be recognising what goals are and setting some realistic goals that pupils can work on to achieve. Teaching will aim to develop an understanding of what it means to persevere by talking about times when things have been tricky. We will be discussing how to work in a group to enable pupils to work in a group to solve problems, before sharing successes and reflecting on how it feels to succeed.

Music

This term we use animals and animal stories as inspiration for our music learning. The two key music skills we will be learning about during the music lessons are tempo (the pace) and dynamics (the volume). The children will use body and percussion instruments during the music lessons. They will explain why they have chosen sounds and how they can change the tempo and dynamics of the percussion instrument. They will sing songs using the melody and stay in time with the other children during their performances.

Other requests...

Can the children keep in school a named pair of wellies and a named set of clothes including underwear.

Please make sure that all jumpers are named as well as any item of clothing they might take off. While the weather is colder children will need a warm waterproof coat which is named.

Water bottles should only contain water and if possible, have a sports cap design.

Children receive fruit daily. If your child wants to bring in a snack it must be fresh fruit or vegetables.

When preparing home packed lunches please be aware we have children with severe nut allergies in our Key Stage.

As always, many thanks for your ongoing support. Please speak to one of us if you have any questions or we can help with anything as the term goes on.