

Year 4 Curriculum Letter - Autumn Half Term 2 2024

Our theme for Autumn 2 is:

Rockin' Rainforests

Our main focuses are:

- Finding out what is so rockin' about the rainforest! We will be looking at the different layers, tribes and animals found in the rainforest.
- Locating rainforests, such as the Amazon, which is the biggest rainforest in the world.
- Exploring the term 'deforestation' and the impact it is having on our planet.
- Looking at current affairs and the impact wild fires have had on the Amazon Rainforest.



Our theme will last for:

8 weeks

Important Dates

W/C 28rd October—Black History Week
W/C 4th November —Maths Investigation Week
W/C 11th November—Anti-Bullying Week
W/C 18th November - D&T Week
28th November - R.E. Day
W/C 9th December—Hour of Code Week

P.E.

For P.E. this term, we will be learning the skills required to play Tag-Rugby! This will be outdoors, so please bring weather appropriate kit.

Music

This half term we will be learning how to play the djembe drums, learning how to perform a solo and also as an ensemble.

R.E.

This half-term, we will be looking at Judaism. This will include learning about the beliefs and teachings, symbols, worship, codes of conduct and Hannukah.

English

In class this half term, we will be reading 'The Explorer' written by Katherine Rundell. Whilst we are enjoying this book, we will be developing our sentence writing skills and grammar knowledge. We will begin by looking at writing a diary entry from the perspective of another character. We will also be writing setting descriptions based on some of the fantastic places explored by the characters from the book. The book is full of fascinating information about the Amazon Rainforest therefore the children will be writing their own survival guide on how to survive in the deep, dark depths of the jungle. Exciting stuff!

Geography

This topic gives us a fantastic opportunity to think about different countries and environments, including the nature we see around us. We will be locating the countries where rainforests are found - focusing on South America. We will be looking at key physical and human characteristics and comparing this to the United Kingdom.

Science

The rainforest is home to a vast array of animals and plants, so in Science we will be thinking about how to classify them into different groups. We will also be taking a closer look at the habitat of some of the animals and considering how this can change over time and what impact this has on the animals that live there. For the end of our topic, we will focus on the food chains and webs that create the rainforest's 'circle of life'.



Shared home learning

Please encourage your child to read for 15 minutes, as a minimum, every day. This should be logged in their reading journal on a daily basis. Our vocabulary and spellings that we will be practising and looking at over the half term will be shared via Seesaw which can be discussed, practised and looked through at home. It is always great to ask your child the definitions of the words and see if they can put them into a sentence!

An optional Mathematics and English homework will be set via Seesaw on a weekly basis. A half-term project will be set in the first week which will involve creating something slowly over the entire half-term. This is again optional and will be a project that you can decide yourselves how to complete.



Mathematics

We will be putting our number knowledge to the test and applying our skills in our calculations and problem solving with multiplication and division. We will be looking at formal written methods as well as mental calculation skills.

This half term, we will also be exploring shape and learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will also be learning about different types of angles and how to classify these. Our final unit will look at measures, specifically how to calculate perimeter and area!

In addition, we will be putting all of our mathematical knowledge into practise during Investigation Week. The children always thoroughly enjoy this week and are eager to get their thinking caps on!



Behaviour and Safety

We will be linking our Behaviour and Safety lessons with 'Anti-Bullying Week'. We will be focusing on different bullying scenarios and what we would do.

Personal, Social, Health, and Economy (P.S.H. E)

As part of our No Outsiders scheme, we will be reading 'Dogs don't do ballet' by Anna Kemp and discussing when to be assertive to follow our passions. This will also lead on to a discussion on stereotypes. For our main P.S.H.E. lessons, we will be discussing the law and human rights.

British Values

We will be looking at 'tolerance of others' and discussing what this means as a class.

Computing

We will be learning about algorithms and how to de-bug when it goes wrong! We will be completing our Code.Org course all about commands and sequencing. We will also be celebrating Hour of Code Week!

Art

We will be using overlapping skills to improve our mastery of art techniques and creating collages of pictures of animals and the rainforest.

French

This half term in French our topic is My Family. Year 4 will be learning how to introduce their family members and talk about them.

