

Year 4 Curriculum Letter - Autumn Half Term 2019

Our theme for Autumn 1 is:

Rockin' Rainforests

Our main focuses are:

- Finding out what was 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 rainforests 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 has had on the Amazon Rainforest.

Our theme will last for:

5 weeks

Monday 2nd September - Friday 11th October.



Important Dates

Monday 16th September - Parent Meeting 3:30pm.

Thursday 26th September - 4AK Family Assembly at 9:00am.

P.E.

In P.E. we will be dribbling and scoring during a fantastic football half-term. We will be practising our passing, marking and scoring skills.

It is vital that your child has their P.E. kit in school at all times so please make sure it is brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday.

Music

This topic is based on the Rockin' Rainforest. The pupils will develop their understanding of the history of music by listening to and commenting on the impressionist piece of music Clair de Lune by Claude Debussy. They will improvise and play instruments to create 'impressionist' responses to the rainforest and will design a graphic score to notate their music.

English

We will be focusing this half-term on the story of 'The Explorer' written by Katherine Rundell.

Swapping bodies with some of the characters will make writing diaries from their point of view much more exciting. 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!

On a weekly basis, your child will have shared reading sessions with the teacher. Where possible, we will use some texts about the rainforest to really consolidate their other learning.



Geography

This topic gives us a fantastic opportunity to think about different countries and environments including the nature around us. We will be locating the world's countries - focusing on South America, looking at key physical and human characteristics and describing and understanding key aspects of vegetation.

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 'circle of life'.

Shared home learning

Please spend 15 minutes, as a minimum, reading with your child every day. Children will have a Reading Journal that they need to complete — please encourage your child to answer the questions in as much detail as possible. We encourage Year 4 children to gain some independence so we do encourage your child to write in their Reading Journal themselves. We will be sending spellings home on a weekly basis. Please practise these with your child as they will have a spelling test towards the end of the week.

The homework for this half term is 'We are Nature Lovers'. The children's homework project is to demonstrate a love of nature! We need to look after the world we are in and this is your chance to do just that!



Mathematics

We are starting off our fantastic year pattern sniffing our way around the number system to see what we can find. We will be looking at rounding, decimal points and comparing numbers as well as becoming number detectives by the end of the term.

We will finish off the half-term putting all of our number knowledge to the test and applying our skills in our calculations and problem solving with addition, subtraction and multiplication.

To mix things up, we will also spend the last week re-capping our 2D and 3D shape knowledge. Phew! What a busy half term of Maths...



Behaviour and Safety

During this topic we will be looking at Aesop's fables and creating our own fables to help us follow the school rules.

Philosophy for Children (P.4.C.)

Thinking about the rainforest leads to some interesting questions such as:

- What if there were no rainforests?
- What impact is deforestation having on the world?

Personal, Social, Health, and Community Education (P.S.H.C.E.)

As a whole school, we will be following the No Outsiders Scheme which involves looking at a range of stories that addresses diversity and equality.

R.E.

This half-term, our focus in R.E. will be Christianity, looking at The Bible, the story of creation and Noah's Ark.

Computing

For computing, children will be creating a video presentation of their survival guide for the rainforest and embedding it onto a Power Point using hyperlinks.

Art

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

French

In this unit, the children will learn how to count to 20 in French and say their name and age in French. We will also say hello and goodbye and then ask how somebody is feeling.

