

Y4 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our summer term, I can't believe that we are approaching the final stretch already. It was lovely to welcome the children back to school last week and hear all about their Easter holiday.

Our topic this term is '**Rainforest Rangers**' and the children will be finding out lots of interesting facts about **Tropical Rainforests**. These will include:

- What defines a rainforest?
- Where in the world they are and why they are there.
- The layers of a tropical rainforest, which plants grow there and who has a home there.
- The people of the rainforest.
- The rainforest under threat and what can be done to save it.

As always, the topic focus will provide varied writing opportunities, including: a balanced argument looking at the positive and negative points of deforestation and creating a fact file about endangered animals of the rainforest.

Reading in year 4: Children in year 4 will be listened to by an adult in school on a regular basis.

If your child is reading from the reading scheme then they will have already been given a reading book to take home. Whilst we appreciate that your child may be reading other material at home, we do encourage them to read their allocated reading book with an adult regularly throughout the week too. This is important as it not only develops reading fluency, but also allows for you to have a discussion with your child about the text to check for understanding of new vocabulary and the text itself. Please do record their progress in their reading record book and let us know as and when your child requires a new book for home. ***There is no need to bring this book into school each day as your child has a separate book in school for us to listen to them read throughout the week too.***

If your child has completed the reading scheme then they are now a 'free reader' and may choose an age-appropriate book to read in school based upon their own likes and interests. Please encourage your child to continue to read a wide range of texts regularly at home and talk to them about it.

In addition to regular reading opportunities within the class, all children in year 4 will continue to visit the school library every Thursday to choose a library book to take home. Please ensure your child brings their library book back to school on that day if they wish to borrow a different book. Of course, if they are still reading it then they may keep it at home until finished.

English: Our initial focus is shape poems. We will begin by looking at a variety of calligrams using 'Bembo's Zoo' as a starting point. We will then use 'Apes to Zebras: an A-Z of Shape Poems' by Liz Brownlee, Sue Hardy-Dawson and Roger Stevens to read and discuss a range of shape poems. The children will have the opportunity to produce their own shape poem based on a rainforest animal. We will be using rainforest stories 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry and 'The Shaman's Apprentice' also by Lynne Cherry to explore the issues confronting indigenous people and the environment and creating our own stories based upon similar events.

Our non-fiction focus will include persuasive writing. The children will be thinking about cherishing the rainforest and persuading others to do so too. We will be using 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea' by Jeannie Baker to identify key aspects of a persuasive text. We will then look at 'The Vanishing Rainforest' by Richard Platt (written in 2003) and carry out some research to find out what has happened since and question whether things are getting better. The children will use this to inform their own piece of persuasive writing.

Spelling: The children will continue to have a weekly spelling test and they will be sent home with a spelling list to practise (every Monday) in preparation for a **spelling test which will take place on the Friday of the same week**. Please encourage your child to bring their spelling books to school on those days.

Maths: In Maths, the children will continue to practise their individual times tables target each day to ensure they are secure in these. The children will have a weekly times tables test every Friday, and they will be sent home with their

individual target to practise at home too. The national multiplication tables check will take place in June. 'The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics.'

We will begin the term with a focus on decimals; writing, comparing, ordering, and rounding decimals. We will then move our focus to money and the children will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of pounds and pence before being introduced to decimal notation for money. The children will learn to order money represented in the same format before looking at totals that include mixed pounds and pence and totals represented in decimal notation. They will learn to round amounts of money written in decimal notation to the nearest pound. We will then move onto developing our understanding of telling the time, with particular focus on a.m. & p.m., 24 hour clock and analogue to digital. Our focus on statistics will feature how to use bar charts, pictograms and tables to interpret and present discrete data and the children will be introduced to line graphs. In shape, we will be looking at identifying, comparing and ordering angles. Our shape work will continue to classify triangles using the names 'isosceles', 'scalene' and 'equilateral' triangles and naming quadrilaterals including a square, rectangle, rhombus, parallelogram and trapezium, describing their properties and highlight the similarities and differences between different quadrilaterals.

Problem solving and reasoning will continue to be an important part of all our maths when the children are encouraged to apply their knowledge and skills independently and to persevere when they are stuck.

In **Science**, the children will be focusing on 'living things and their habitats' in relation to the rainforest environment, their own environment, climate change, impact of change and how to help the habitats to create a positive impact. They will also be looking at 'animals including humans' beginning by looking at the teeth as the first stage of the digestive system before beginning to understand the human digestive system further as they consider what happens to their food, what the small intestine does and what we can learn from a poo! They will also interpret food chains and discuss the impact of changes to a chain.

In **Computing**, we will be using the chrome books to undertake research for our topic-based writing.

In **R.E** we will be asking the questions 'How do the 5 pillars guide Muslims?' and 'Why are Gurus at the heart of Sikh belief and practice?'

In **ART** the children will research masks and headdresses from other cultures and create their own designs.

In **DT** the children will build a rainforest diorama and design, make and evaluate a 3D Insect model.

The focus for **P.E.** is gymnastics and rounders. **P.E. will take place on Thursdays and Fridays.** Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school. PE kit consists of a plain or Shire Oak white or purple t-shirt and black shorts. We will aim to have PE outdoors as often as possible this term so joggers and a sweatshirt/hoodie would be useful. No football strips or similar please. As always, please make sure that everything is labelled and placed in a named bag. We prefer kit to stay at school for the full half term. It can be washed in the half term holiday!

Trips and visitors – TBC

As always, if you have any questions or concerns then feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

Thank you,

The Year 4 team.