

Our theme this term is...

# The Rainforest



## As **Geographers** we will:

### Learn about the Amazon Rainforest:

- Use atlases and maps to locate countries which have a rainforest such as Brazil.
- Describe and understand the physical geography of the Amazon Rainforest such as the climate and the Amazon basin.
- Describe and explain the different layers of the rainforest and the reasons why specific animals which live in each layer.

## As **scientists** we will:

- explore the living things within a habitat and discuss our thinking about them
- use classification keys to group organisms in a local and wider ecosystem
- evaluate environmental changes and their effects on organisms
- ask questions and plan a scientific enquiry to answer

## As **programmers** we will:

- Enter and repeat LOGO commands to program an on-screen turtle so it draws shapes, patterns and pictures.
- Test, debug and improve programs with support.

**RE:** We will focus on developing an understanding of the Jewish concept of God. With a focus on Exodus, we will draw on the idea of God as a rescuer/protector/liberator/giver of freedom and all-powerful.

**PE:** Practice skills for volleyball including:

- Learning to follow the rules of the game and play fairly
- Develop simple tactics for attacking and defending.
- Develop skills for controlling a hockey ball using a hockey stick such as stopping the ball and passing.

## As **mathematicians** we will:

Describe positions on a 2d grid as coordinates in the first quadrant. Recognise and show families of equivalent fractions using diagrams. Solve problems involving fractions. Secure our knowledge of written methods of addition and subtraction.

## As **designers** we will:

Exploring real life shelters to be able to design and build a rainforest shelter.

## PSHE

We will be learning about diversities and communities by exploring and celebrating similarities and differences between people in our community.

## As **writers** we will:

Be reading the books 'The BFG' and 'The Vanishing Rainforest'. Using these key texts, we will develop our use of conjunctions and prepositions to show time. We will continue to secure our understanding of sentence structure by using a range of fronted adverbials and correctly punctuating them. We will also focus on drafting and writing narratives, editing and proofreading these and proposing changes to improve our work.

## Kingfisher Swimming:

We will be taking part in weekly swimming lessons which will develop our confidence in the water to enable us to swim up to 25 metres.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. It has been lovely hearing about all of the many exciting things you have got up to. The children have settled in well after a very busy holiday and we are pleased that they have come back to school ready to learn. We have already started our new Geography topic, 'The Rainforest' and have begun reading the 'BFG' in Guided Reading and 'The Vanishing Rainforest' in English. The children were very excited to start learning about living things and their habitats for our new Science topic. Kingfisher class (Both Year 3 and Year 4 children) will be swimming every week this half term with the first lesson starting on Friday 8th January. Please ensure the children bring swimwear, a towel, goggles if required. Hair must be tied back and earrings removed.

Thank you to those children who completed tasks from the homework menu and parents and carers for supporting the children to do so. Both classes had a lovely afternoon looking at and listening to the homework that the children had completed. The children were really proud of their homework and were eager to share it with each other. The homework was presented to the class and the children were given an opportunity to give each other feedback.

We have sent home a new homework menu so please encourage your child to complete as many tasks as possible. If you need any resources, such as paper, to ensure that work is presented at a high standard then please ask your child's class teacher. Homework that is of an exceptional high quality will be put on display within the school as a good example to others.

Children will continue to receive weekly spelling and number fact homework. This will be set every Friday and will be due in the following Thursday. The homework must be brought back into school by Thursday ready to be tested on the same day.

So that each child can fulfil their potential we ask that you listen to your child read every night. We cannot stress the importance of reading and talking about what the text actually means alongside discussing unfamiliar vocabulary. If your child finds a piece of vocabulary they particularly like please encourage them to record on a piece of paper and bring it to school so that we can add it to our class vocabulary boards. This will improve their comprehension skills and quality of writing.

Please do take the time to look at key dates and add to your diaries accordingly. As always if you have any questions please feel free to speak to us after school or make an appointment through the office.

Kind regards,

Miss Harvey and Mrs Pinches

#### Key dates

- Outdoor PE - Tuesday afternoons with Mr Tinkler
- Swimming lessons - Kingfisher Year 3 and 4 Friday afternoons
- Indoor PE—Woodpecker Year 3 and 4 Friday afternoons

#### Reminders

Children need to remember to bring a water bottle, book bag, reading book, reading record and a hooded coat to school every day. Spellings and times table homework is set every Friday and due in the following Thursday.