

**CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER****CLASS 4****SPRING TERM 2024****TEACHER:** Mrs Sucksmith**TOPIC TITLE:** 'Ramble in the Rainforest (T3); 'Shakespeare' (T4)**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Miss Broomfield**UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE:**

Writing: We will be using the fiction book, 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell as a stimulus for writing several short pieces where pupils can use grammar skills in context. We will also be working towards an adventure story in the style of the book. The themes of environmental stewardship within this text also allow children to carry out debates around the use of the rainforest's resources and to write discussion pieces. Armed with information, they will also write persuasive pieces based on a topic connected to the rainforests that they are interested in. In Term 4, our study of Shakespeare lends itself perfectly to the teaching of dialogue and the writing of a modern playscript for one of the Bard's best-known plays.

Reading: Children in Class 4 will continue to develop key reading skills using 'The Explorer'. These include, predicting what is stated and implied, exploring word choice and how language is used in context, as well as for effect. Pupils will continue to develop test skills and build their reading stamina and ability to find evidence within specific sections and across a longer piece.

Grammar: Areas of learning include when and how to use direct and reported speech, the active and the passive voice, the use of semi-colons, colons, and dashes to mark clauses, structures to layout writing effectively and the differences between formal and informal language.

Spelling: The Year 5 spelling patterns that we are learning are based on how to create nouns using suffixes (ity, ness and ship) and how to spell homophones and near homophones (words that sound like others but use a different spelling pattern). The Year 6 spelling patterns that we are learning focus on how to spell word with the long /e/ sound spelt as a 'ie' or 'ei', such as deceive, receive etc. We will also spend some time exploring word families and how words are related in form and meaning, such as commit, committee and commitment.

MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING:

Teaching in Maths will focus largely on fractions, decimals and percentages over both Terms 3 and 4, with opportunities to revisit prior learning connected to place value, and calculation strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It would be very helpful if pupils could continue to practise times table facts and the associated divisions at home regularly. It is the expectation that by the end of Year 4, pupils know these up to 12x12 and can recall them quickly. Being able to do so, means that they can access the fractions, decimals and percentage units more easily.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING:

Our topic this term is 'Earth and Space'. Pupils will be learning to:

- Describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.
- Describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth.
- Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies.
- Use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

We will also be learning about Galileo and his contributions to astronomy as well as the early years of space exploration from 1940 to 1970.

In our ICT curriculum, we will be learning how to use and organize information using flat-file databases. Additionally, pupils will learn how to create their own web pages. This will provide an opportunity for them to share their learning about the rainforests on a web page that they have created.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Our Big Question in Term 3 is 'How can following God bring freedom and justice? Teaching will focus largely on the events in the life of Moses and the role that he played in liberating the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. Pupils will look at the Ten

THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING:

Homework will be given out on a Monday and reviewed in class the following Monday. This is a slight change to existing practice.

Ensuring that work is in on time is essential otherwise children will find it difficult to access the review and feedback lesson.

Year 6 pupils will be set three pieces from a SATs preparation booklet to include a piece of Maths, a short Reading task and a SPaG task. We will mark these together on a Monday, which will give the children immediate feedback on how to improve as well as providing me with an opportunity to review rules or strategies with individuals or groups as necessary.

Similarly, Year 5 pupils will have 2-3 pieces consisting of either Reading, Spelling or Maths linked to learning in class.

Commandments as an example of a covenant between man and God. They will then make connections with Christian beliefs that Jesus brings salvation from sin and that many see Jesus as being a figure who brought about a new covenant between people and God. Finally, we will explore current examples within the world, where people do not experience freedom or justice and reflect on why these rights are so important.

In Term 4, we shall explore the question, 'What did Jesus do to save humans?' Our lessons will provide an opportunity for us to explore the Easter story, particularly the Last Supper and how this is reflected in the Eucharist at Communion. Throughout Term 4, Class 4 will also be preparing to lead the Easter Service in Church.

HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL & SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING:

In Geography, pupils will be carrying out a comparison of the UK and Brazil. They will use maps to identify the location of Brazil and to explore the physical geography of the country. They will learn about the importance of the Amazon rainforest and the environmental impact globally of deforestation. In connection with this, they will learn about the urbanisation of Brazil and explore Rio de Janeiro as a tourist destination.

UNDERSTANDING THE ARTS:

In Art, pupils will learn about the work and artistic style of Frida Kahlo and create their own surrealist portraits.

In music, they will explore how emotions are conveyed in different musical styles.

Term 4 provides an exciting opportunity to learn more about the life and work of William Shakespeare and to consider the considerable impact that his writing has had on 'the arts'.

In Music, we shall be exploring a variety of musical styles.

UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & WELLBEING:

Our PHSE units during the Spring Term provide an opportunity for pupils to learn how to stay safe in a technological world. This includes lessons on what it is appropriate to share online and on phones. Please note, that we will be talking to children about topics relating to the sharing of personal details and information, including photographs using these media.

We will also be learning about the rights that children can expect and the responsibilities that accompany these.

Additionally, I will be setting a personal interest project homework relating to our Rainforest topic which will extend over the two terms.

Please continue to support your child(ren) in learning their times table/division facts and building essential reading stamina by reading every day for increasing amounts of time.

There are a number of attractions across the South/Southeast that might be of interest, connected to our learning over Terms 3 and 4.

The Living Rainforest, Thatcham
<https://livingrainforest.org/>

Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium
<https://www.winchestersciencecentre.org/>

The Globe Theatre
The Globe is a wonderful way to immerse young people in the life of Shakespeare. Do take a look at their website for the various events and talks that they offer (<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/>) In the Easter holidays, the theatre is also staging a shortened, modern version of Romeo and Juliet (90 minutes) aimed at a younger audience that might be of interest (see the 'What's On' section and 'April')

Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust
<https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/>

RSC
<https://www.rsc.org.uk/whats-on>

VISITS AND TRIPS:

No trips/visits planned this term.

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March.

Watch this space...

RESOURCES WE NEED:

AND ESSENTIAL . . .

Please ensure that your child comes to school with everything that they need, including a water bottle, a reading book, reading record, wellies for the wet months and PE kit.

We are always happy to give help and advice, so please do not hesitate to contact us.