



CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

CLASS 4 TOPIC TITLE:	SPRING TERM 2026 A RAMBLE IN THE RAINFOREST / SHAKESPEARE	TEACHER: MRS SUCKSMITH TEACHING ASSISTANT: MR SMITH
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UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE:

Our focus text for Term 3 will be 'Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, which tells the story of four children stranded in the Amazon rainforest following a plane crash. We will use the text to teach grammar techniques and as a focus reading text to support retrieval, inference, prediction and summarising skills. Children will also use this text to inspire their own adventure narratives and to write from the point of view of different characters. The explorer within the book is heavily inspired by the real-life explorer, Percy Fawcett. Children will carry out research into who he was and write a biography of the explorer that we encounter in Rundell's book using details from Fawcett's life and information that they can retrieve and infer from 'The Explorer'.

In Term 4, we will continue to use the rainforest as an inspiration for our writing. Our focus text will be, 'There's a Ran-tan in my bedroom'. Pupils will use this text and the supplementary Greenpeace short film to identify threats to the rainforest and to write a persuasive letter addressing a current threat to this environment.

We shall supplement our writing curriculum with extracts from a variety of books that contain a rainforest focus, including, 'Up in the Canopy' by James Aldred and 'Wild Animals of the South' by Dieter Braun.

We end Term 4 with a focus on Shakespeare's play, 'Macbeth' to coincide with Shakespeare Week (23-29 March 2026). We shall use drama to bring the characters to life as well as writing newspaper reports and letters based on the themes and events in the play.

MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING:

Our Spring Term topics in both Years 5 and 6 are:

- Fractions
 - finding non-unit fractions of quantities
- Multiplication and division
 - using equivalence to calculate
 - multiplication strategies for larger numbers and long multiplication
 - dividing by two-digit divisors
 - using compensation to calculate
- Multiplication and division
 - area and perimeter
 - translation, rotation and reflection
- Fractions and percentages (including simplifying, comparing, adding & subtraction)

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING:

- **Living things and their habitats:** Children will research and identify observable characteristics to classify living organisms. They will then use this information to sort and group plants and animals using a classification key. Working practically, pupils will investigate whether yeast is a living organism and then explain how micro-organisms of this kind are grouped and classified. Finally, they will identify and classify plants and animals living in our local area.
- **Forces:** Building on prior learning about what forces are, children will identify the forces that are acting on an object. Working practically, they will explore and measure the effect that gravity has as well as investigating the effects of friction caused by different surfaces. Carrying out experiments, the children will investigate the effects of both air and water resistance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

In Term 3, we will be asking and seeking to answer the big question, 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?' Our big question for Term 4 will be, 'What did Jesus do to save humans?'

HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL & SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING:

Our learning this term will be largely Geography-based. Children will find out what latitude and longitude lines are, as well as using 6-figure grid references to identify countries on a map and to describe their location. Pupils will also carry out a unit of work relating to rainforests - with a specific focus on the Amazon and complimentary study into life in Brazil.

UNDERSTANDING THE ARTS:

Our art will supplement our study of the Amazon and Brazil; pupils will find out more about the work of Henri Rousseau and Romero Britto, creating artwork that uses the styles and techniques of these artists.

UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & WELLBEING:

Our PSHE units are: 'Keeping Safe' and 'Rights and Respects'. Pupils will learn more about keeping themselves safe online and what the law says about social media age restrictions, drugs and alcohol. They will also learn more about democracy in the UK and what their rights and responsibilities are.

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

Your child will receive regular homework, which will be given on a Friday and is due in the following Thursday. Please ensure that you support your child in completing the tasks that have been set:

Maths – relating to learning in class that week (weekly)

English task – this could be a spelling consolidation activity, a piece designed to use and apply grammar skills taught that week or a creative piece that could be linked to another area of the curriculum.

Year 6 pupils may be set work from SATs-style practice booklets too so that they can prepare for the End of Key Stage 2 tests in the Summer Term.

Additionally, please continue to support your child with their times tables by listening to times table rhymes and songs, as well as encouraging them to log in to and play TTRS regularly. Word Shark should also be used at home to support spelling. Children will be reminded of their log-ins for both programs in the coming week.

Encouraging and fostering a love of reading is also so important for young people. I read to them daily at school and encourage them to do so at home themselves. They have a Reading Journal which I will check weekly. For every day of reading, they are awarded a raffle ticket. At the end of each term, I hold a reading raffle and the winner is awarded a book of their choice.

VISITS AND TRIPS:

Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st January – Bassistry Arts 'World Music, Rhythm, Song & Dance' workshop

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day

AND ESSENTIAL . . .

A reading book and water bottle should be in school daily.

We continue to alternate PE and Forest School on Tuesday afternoons. These activities go ahead regardless of the weather so please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school for the activity that they are undertaking and for the weather conditions that they are likely to experience throughout the winter. A plastic bag in which to take home dirty shoes is extremely helpful.

Please ensure that children have an appropriate snack for breaktime (fresh fruit – not fruit winders – fresh vegetables and breadsticks are ideal)

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