



Year 4 Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter

4 Raven &
4 Jackdaw

19.01.18

Welcome to the Rainforest!



This term we will be studying the Rainforests of the world, specifically focusing on the animals and plant life living in the Amazon Rainforest.

The end products for our topic this term are very exciting. Each child will produce an art journal, creating an 'altered book' using a range of art and presentation skills to present their learning in an exciting and interactive way. Also, we will be organising a performance of 'Yanamamo' a collection of songs and dance with a message of protecting and saving the precious rainforests from deadly deforestation. Parents will be invited to watch once a date has been confirmed.



We will also be visited by some 'Mini Monsters'. Each of the children will have the opportunity to hold some REAL creatures found in the rainforest as they visit us in school for the afternoon. This will be part of our 'Rainforest Explorer Day' on Tuesday the 6th February. On this day we will invite the children to come prepared for a rainforest adventure (dressed as explorers and with a packed lunch and drinking water of course) as they complete a range of activities that build teamwork and communication skills as well as test their scientific knowledge. We can't wait!

In our other lessons we will be:

- Completing maps of the world and South America, learning about continents and countries, oceans and rivers.
- Sketching and painting 'BIG' pictures in the style of French painter Henri Rousseau.
- Researching different rainforests from around the world and making fact files.
- Experimenting with the water cycle and processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.
- Learning about food chains and webs in the Amazon rainforest.
- Discovering the frightening statistics around deforestation.
- Learning about tribes living in the rainforest and their daily life.

Key Dates:

<i>Project Home-work 1 Due</i>	<i>05.02.18</i>
<i>Rainforest Explorer Day</i>	<i>06.02.18</i>
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>12.02.18-16.02.18</i>
<i>Sponsored Bounce</i>	<i>23.02.18</i>
<i>Maths Café</i>	<i>01.03.18</i>
<i>Parents Evenings</i>	<i>14.03.18-15.03.18</i>
<i>Easter Holidays</i>	<i>29.03.18-13.04.18</i>

School Jumpers

We are constantly losing and unable to rehome school jumpers.

Please, please, please make sure your child's name is in their school jumper.

P.E.

P.E. and Dance is now on a **Thursday** morning.

However it is important to have your P.E. kit in school all week.

We lose no end of P.E. kit and most of it is not named! Please, please, please name all of your child's P.E. kit to help us to return it to their owners.

Our School PE kit is the following:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts
- Plimsols
- Plain tracksuit bottoms and top (preferably black or navy)
- Plain trainers
- A change of socks

Homework

English & Maths homework now goes home on a Friday and is due in on a Thursday.

English

This term we will be working on forming our letters correctly and joining our handwriting. If our writing is consistently neat we are awarded pen licences to write in pen for all our lessons (except Maths). To work on this at home—go to letterjoin.co.uk and if on a desktop: username: gay password: wood, if on a tablet the shape is an L when asked to 'join the dots'.

We will also be writing rainforest stories to enter as part of Radio 2's 500 word competition and writing non-chronological reports about animals from the Amazon and persuasive writing to try to prevent further deforestation.

We will also be learning about different spelling patterns and trying to improve our spelling, particularly of the year 3 & 4 words.

In reading, we will be practising our vocabulary, retrieval and inference skills, using the 'Jungle Book' and other texts.

Maths

In Maths we are always focusing on our times tables, in year 4 you need to know them all, answering them out of order as well as using them to solve division and fraction problems.

We will be continuing to use the 'mastery' approach, giving all learners plenty of challenge and support to solve tricky problems involving place value, the four operations and fractions, which are the main part of the year 4 curriculum.

We aim for all children to be confident with numbers and looking at problems from different angles, with equipment and visual representations to support and extend them.

Maths Cafés

Last year we held some successful Maths cafés, which invited parents and carers to come in and take a look at how we teach Maths in school as well as what we cover in year 4.

We'd like to use this as an opportunity to share with you ways to help your child with their homework and understand more of what we do in school.

This term we will be holding a Maths Café on Thursday 1st March 2018 with a full invitation to follow.

In the meantime, please let us know what you would find interesting or helpful to cover during this session. Contact Mrs Adams or Miss Lambert either via an email to the office or just by catching us at the end of the day.

We looking forward to seeing you then!

