




Year 4 Newsletter: Spring 1 2020

The Vanishing Rainforests

Our Learning Theme		
Welcome back. We hope you had a fantastic festive break and you are ready for an exciting and busy spring half term. Our topic this half term is The Vanishing Rainforests. We will explore the topic through the majority of our curriculum areas. The children will discover where the rainforests of the world are, why they are there, who and what inhabits them, their importance to the world and why their existence is threatened. Our topic will launch with a visit to Sheffield Butterfly House.		
		Important Dates:
		Thursday 9 th January - Young Voices Concert in Sheffield
		Wednesday 15 th January – Sheffield Butterfly House
		Thursday 13 th February – Young Voices Concert in school
Homework	Learning Log	
Maths and spelling homework will be sent home every fortnight in the form of a Learn by Heart Target (starting on Friday 10 th January). We would appreciate any help you could give your child in becoming confident and fluent in their maths and spelling targets. Please could you also help your child with learning the facts and vocabulary on their rainforest knowledge organiser ready for a quiz later in the half term.	A Learning Log activity has been sent home for your child to complete over this half term. The Spring One half term learning log should be returned to school by Wednesday 5th February. Children will be encouraged to follow their own line of enquiry linked to our exciting rainforest theme.	
	PE Days	
	Tuesday – Outdoor Invasion Games Wednesday – Indoor Athletics Please continue to come to school in your PE kit on these days. Remember school colours and warm PE kit for outdoor PE please.	
Curriculum		
English	Maths	Science
In English we will be reading <i>The Vanishing Rainforest</i> and <i>Buddy's Rainforest Rescue</i> , beautiful books, which highlight the threat of deforestation that the rainforests and their inhabitants face. The children will also debate issues around the use of, and threats to, the rainforest.	In maths, linking to our topic, we will be interpreting and presenting data using appropriate graphs and charts. We also be continuing with learning our timetables and exploring different methods of multiplication and division.	Our science will also link to maths through statistics and data handling, with lots of opportunities for the children to collect, present and interpret data in a variety of contexts linked to the rainforest, animals and their habitats and the water cycle.
Geography	Art/DT	Computing
In geography we will be exploring: *What is a rainforest and where can we find them? *Why are the rainforests important? *What lives and grows in rainforests? *Why are rainforests disappearing? *How can we preserve the rainforests?	Our art and design lessons will explore the art and textiles of the Mola Tribe in Panama. We will develop a wide range of art and design techniques through colour, pattern, texture, and shaping and stitching of materials.	We will be continuing to link our computing sessions to maths by using computer code to create a game that tests our times table knowledge. We will also be exploring PEGI ratings, why they are used and what it means be a responsible digital citizen when gaming.
Other:		Year Four Team
The children will continue with ukulele lessons on alternate Friday afternoons. In RE and PHSE we will be learning about people who inspire us, those we share our world with and how we can make a difference through rights, rules and responsibilities.		Our learning team remains largely unchanged next half term. Mr Joe Matthews, a trainee teacher will be joining us for eight weeks.