




Year Four Newsletter: Autumn 1 – 2021 Remarkable Rainforests

Our Learning Theme			
<p>Welcome back. It's lovely to see everyone back in school after such a long break. Whilst there may be some changes in the structure of our school day, we have an exciting half term planned with lots of interesting and engaging activities that we are sure will help the children to settle in quickly. Our topic this half term is 'Remarkable 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 an exciting virtual reality workshop which includes a virtual tour of the Borneo rainforest and be followed by a visit to our very own temperate rainforest- Hirst Woods!</p>		Important Dates: Wednesday 22nd September – Tropical World 6th October - Earhart visit to Hirst Woods 8th October - Fiennes visit to Hirst Woods (both trips will be weather dependent)	
Homework		Learning Log	
<p>Maths and spelling homework will be sent home every fortnight in the form of a Learn by Heart Target (starting on Friday 17th September). 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.</p>		<p>A Learning Log activity will be sent home for your child to complete over this half term. This half term's learning log should be returned to school by Monday 18th October. Children will be encouraged to follow their own line of enquiry linked to our exciting rainforest theme.</p>	
		PE Days	
		Tuesday – Outdoor We will be working alongside Ashley, a qualified sports coach from FUNDA sports education. Please come to school in your PE kit on these days. Remember school colours (no football shirts) and warm kit for outdoor PE when it gets chilly please.	Thursday – Indoor We will be working alongside Ashley, a qualified sports coach from FUNDA sports education. Please come to school in your PE kit on these days. Remember school colours (no football shirts) and warm kit for outdoor PE when it gets chilly please.
Curriculum			
English	Maths	Science	
<p>In English we will be working with <i>The Whale</i>, a wordless book written by Ethan and Vita Murrow. In guided reading, we will be reading <i>The Explorer</i>. We will also look at <i>The Kapok Tree</i>, <i>The Vanishing Rainforest</i> and <i>The Shaman's Apprentice</i>. These are 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.</p>	<p>In maths we will begin by extending our knowledge and understanding of place value, including numbers beyond 1000, negative numbers and Roman numerals. We will move on to adding and subtracting numbers with up to 4 digits using the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction where appropriate. The Year 4 curriculum places greater emphasis on children knowing their times table facts up to 12 by the end of Year 4. Consequently, we will also be working with the children on their times tables facts.</p>	<p>Our science will link to our topic and include exploring and using classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. We will construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. We will learn about how environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. The water cycle and its importance will also feature in our science lessons.</p>	
Geography	Art/DT	Computing	
<p>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?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>We will begin the year by revisiting our E-Safety SMART Rules to ensure that the children are continuing to be responsible and safe digital citizens. Following that, our computing sessions will link to our science topic. We will be creating and using databases to collect, analyse, evaluate and present data and information using a variety of applications.</p>	
Other:		Year Four Team	
<p>The children will continue with ukulele lessons on alternate Friday mornings. In RE we will be learning about the Buddhist faith and thinking about whether it is possible for everyone to be happy. Being my best is our theme for PHSE this half term. This unit of work focusses on our physical and mental wellbeing through keeping healthy, developing a growth mind-set and basic first aid.</p>		Earhart Class – Mr Hurtault, Mrs Bagnall Fiennes Class - Mr Breeze, Mr Gedney Mrs Thakker will be working across both classes teaching French.	
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