Year 3 - Areas of Study Spring 1 - 2025

Topic Title: Rave in the Rainforest

Key Question: Why is the rainforest important?

English (Reading and Writing)

The children will be reading a variety of shape poems and will have the opportunity to create their own poem based on a rainforest animal. They will explore descriptive words and phrases in a poem that capture the reader's interest and imagination. The children will listen with understanding and empathy to stories from other cultures. They will learn what a folktale is, write a short synopsis for a folktale and retell and write one themselves. The children will also have an opportunity to plan and write an information text. They will use non-fiction books and the internet to research information about animals. They will use this information to plan and write a non-chronological report using headings, subheadings, and paragraphs about their own newly discovered rainforest creature.

In guided reading sessions, the children will look at 'The Vanishing Rainforest', as well as texts non-fiction texts relating to the rainforest and its preservation. They will also be reading and working on 'The Great Kapok Tree' through their English writing. To gather information for their Factfiles, they will also use non-fiction information books on the rainforest.

Maths

This term in maths, pupils will build on existing knowledge of times-tables to explore calculations related to known facts. Children explore scaling facts by 10, for example using 3 × 4 = 12 to derive 3 × 40 = 120 and 30 × 4 = 120. A range of representations are used to expose the link between multiples of 1 and multiples of 10. Children begin by using base ten, before moving on to the slightly more abstract representation of place value counters. Children go on to explore this relationship with division, for example using 12 ÷ 3 = 4 to derive 120 ÷ 3 = 40. They will use a range of different equipment to visualise what multiplication looks like and support their learning.

We will explore multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. At this stage, none of the multiplication calculations require exchanges. Children apply their understanding of partitioning to represent and solve calculations using the expanded method. The 2-digit number is partitioned into tens and ones, both are multiplied by the 1-digit number and then the partial products are added to find the total product. The expanded method allows children to gain a deep understanding of the structure of the calculation before progressing to formal short multiplication in Year 4.

Later in the term, we will move onto a unit of length and perimeter. Children will begin by using a ruler to measure objects in centimetres. They then combine both units of measurement, such as 1 m and 20 cm, for example by measuring the lengths of desks or the heights of children in the class. There will be opportunities

for children to use different measuring equipment, including rulers, tape measures, metre sticks and trundle wheels. We will explore why it is important to choose the appropriate unit or measuring equipment before measuring an object or length.

Science

The children will learn about the life of a flowering plant. They will learn to identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants and set up an investigation to find out what plants need to grow well. They will have the opportunity to record observations and present results using scientific language and investigate how water is transported in plants. They will also learn about the life cycle of a flowering plant including how a plant is pollinated and fertilised.

History

Not taught this half-term.

Geography

The children will be learning about rainforests. They will use atlases and maps to locate different rainforests in the world and identify different climatic zones and describe the climate in the tropics. They will find out about the layers of the rainforest, and they will recognise how mini beasts have adapted to living in the rainforest. The children will learn how to read grid references on a map and learn about the unique features of the Australian rainforest.

We will explore the causes of deforestation and study conflicting views of deforestation. We will also find out about a rainforest tribe "The Yanomami" to compare the lives of people living in different parts of the world. Finally, we will explore economic activity related to the rainforest. Additionally, we will be visiting gardens with a glasshouse this term to carry out some fieldwork.

Art

As part of our geography topic, the children will create a monsoon tissue collage with monsoon and rainforest climates as a stimulus.

Design Technology (DT)

As part of our rainforest topic and understanding of the role that living things have to play in the ecosystem of our planet, the children will create bug houses made from sustainable materials and natural resources. They will design, make and evaluate their creation of a wooden structure, demonstrating their measuring knowledge and learning cutting skills, whilst also learning how to strengthen a product by stiffening a part of a structure.

Music
The pupils will explore salsa rhythms by learning to dance salsa, play a clave rhythm, sing the song, and play a percussion part. They will also compose rhythm patterns to incorporate into their whole-class performance.

Religious Education (RE)
How do the beliefs about Creation affect how religious people treat the environment? The children will recap the stories of creation looking at them in more detail. They should be able to compare the different beliefs and then discuss how these beliefs affect the actions of religious people.

Physical Education (PE)
In gymnastics this term the children with learn, develop and apply travel and rotation on the floor, with hand apparatus and partner work through focussed skill development, sequence creation and games. After half term, they will learn, develop and apply flight and balance on the floor, on low and large apparatus through focussed skill development, warmups and games. Also, this term we are focussing on Target Games (golf, archery, bowling etc). We will be working on the 4 components of aiming using the TAPS words: technique, accuracy, power and selection.

Computing
Using Scratch as a platform, children will create a maze styled game where the objective is to collect a few items (collectables) to trigger an end game state i.e. win Children will select an aesthetically pleasing design for their character and collectable item as well as program walls as barriers to restrict movement. Other features that can be included such as: a timer, a score counter, a chasing enemy that, on contact with player's avatar, initiates a "fail state" – i.e. game over.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
This half term in PSHE, we will be exploring what it means to be part of a community. In conjunction with our school-wide work on the UNICEF Rights of the Child, we will look at the rights and responsibilities we have a part of our school and wider community. We will investigate the reasons why we have rules and laws in society and the importance of following these and, conversely, the consequences for breaking them. We will also be looking at safe use of the internet and media in general. We will investigate how the internet can be used positively for leisure, school and work

and recognise that images and information online can be altered or changes, so not everything we see online is necessarily true or accurate.
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)
In our French lessons this half term, the children will learn how to recognise, recall, and spell up to 10 animals in French with their correct determiners/ indefinite articles. They will understand that there are more determiners/ articles in French than there are in English. They will also begin to use and become more familiar with the high-frequency verb 'être' (to be) in the 1st person form - 'je suis' (I am).
*If you require additional information relating to our school curriculum, please ask at the school office or the class teacher.