

Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term ~ Year 3 & 4

In order for you to feel clear about the teaching and learning intentions for the Spring Term 2019, I hope that you find reading this overview helpful ...

The focus will be Geographical and Scientific based learning, all threaded closely together through English. This term I want the children to become experts in **Rainforests (Ecologists/Zoologists/Anthropologists)**.

The children will be learning about how to find and name different biological regions across the globe, then focus on the Tropical Rainforests. They will learn about the massive variety of flora and fauna of the Rainforest, and how they are adapted to survive there. The children will learn to recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways, exploring and using classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things.

In the course of their learning, the children will read and write stories, poetry, explanations and non-chorological reports about the overall theme. They will learn the science of living things, classification and habitats. They will study maps and atlases to improve their understanding of where in the world are the concentrations of environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics. They will identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle. Art work will include using the styles and designs of the Kayapo Tribe to create own works of art.

This theme will provide the children with high quality material for developing skills in English and Mathematics. Their Geographical and Scientific skills will link with other subjects across the curriculum to create an overarching 'project' theme.

English work will include narrative and non-fiction writing, developing key skills in spelling, punctuation and sentence structure. We will share a range of high quality/high challenge reading texts which will support the learning of subject specific vocabulary and help centre the children in the core theme. This will also support the learning of spelling rules and patterns, and the need to have a better spoken and written Standard English. I strongly encourage you as parents to ensure that your children are regular readers of interesting and challenging texts. Please use the monthly Reading Newsletters for advice and suggestions.

Mathematics work will involve number including especially, effective and efficient written methods for multiplication and division. There will be a large unit of learning on understanding and using fractions. There will be the usual **strong** focus on learning multiplication tables and division facts. All children must continue to use TTRockstars to support this, with daily practice where possible, on mobile devices or laptop/desktop PCs.

In PE, the children will be undertaking activities with MSP. The children will be developing ball skills, control, coordination and teamwork through rugby. They will also be working of development control, movement and balance in archery.

Mr. M Watson

Update:

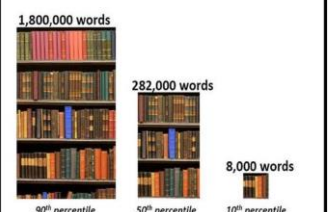
- Thank you for continuing to engage with Class Dojo to keep up to date with what is happening in school. Please check the 'Class Story' and 'Pupil Story' updates which give a window into the classroom. 'Pupil Story' allows your children and myself to share photos with only their parents.
- Please remember that your child will have their ReadTheory & TTRockstars login in their Homework book. Please use this resource as often as possible as it is proven to have a positive impact on children's achievement.

Messages:

- P.E will continue to take place on **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure that your child has a labelled kit in school on these days.
- For PE, ear earrings should be removed or covered with a plaster or micropore tape and long hair **must** be tied back securely.
- Homework will be sent out on **Friday** and should be returned on **Wednesday** of the following week.
- Please listen to your child read 3-4 times a week for 10-15 minutes, it makes a huge difference to their learning and understanding.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)