



Class 3 Newsletter

Spring Term 2020



Spring Term Topic – Rivers and Rainforests

This term our topic is 'Rivers and Rainforests.' We will be escaping the chilly winter days and imagining ourselves in the tropics of South America. Pupils will be finding out about the different environmental and physical characteristics of South America as well as focussing on Brazil, the River Amazon and its fragile ecosystem.

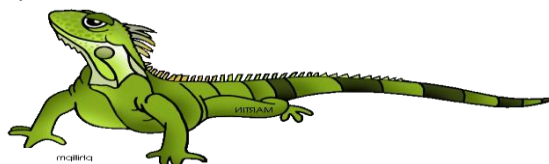
The topic also encompasses our science work on Living Things and their Habitats. We will be classifying plants and animals from the rivers of the UK and the Amazon.

Some of our topic activities will involve:-

- Reading non-fiction and fiction books linked to rivers and rainforests.
- Using the Internet and non-fiction books for research.
- Using atlases, Google Earth and maps of different scales.
- Presenting information in a variety of ways.
- Learning about the journey of a river, focussing on the River Severn and River Amazon.
- Learning about the human impact on rivers, land use around rivers and the effects on wildlife.
- Creating and interrogating a rivers database.
- Identifying the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night) Using time zones to work out time differences.
- Learning about the different climate zones and why they exist.
- Interpreting climate data in charts and graphs.
- Debating issues such as deforestation.
- Persuasive, explanation writing and poetry.
- Writing a rainforest adventure story.
- Researching and classifying animals. Learning about different animal groups and how they reproduce.
- Creating rainforest inspired music.
- Designing and making a fan-powered boat.
- Creating jungle artwork (pastel and chalk) inspired by Henri Rousseau.

How you can support your child.....

- Take your child to the library to get a book about the topic
- Supervise internet research for homework activities.
- Watch any relevant, suitable programmes on TV.
- Find out what they know about global warming and deforestation.
- Check that all homework activities have been completed and the folder is returned to school on time.
- Look for fair-trade produce in shops.
- Take part in 'Fairtrade Fortnight', which is 24th February - 8th March.



Other areas of learning outside the topic this term.....

Literacy	Maths	Science	Religious Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling, punctuation and grammar Handwriting Guided reading Persuasive writing – adverts, leaflets, letters, discussion Explanation writing linked to science and geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fractions, decimals and percentages Measures, area and perimeter Algebra Geometry: angles and shape Position and Direction Sats Revision 	<p><u>Y6 - Living Things and Their Habitats</u> <i>Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals</i></p> <p><i>Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.</i></p> <p><u>Also including: Y5 Living Things and Their Habitats</u> <i>Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.</i></p> <p>All our Science learning in terms 3 and 4 is linked to the topic of 'Rainforests and Rivers'</p>	<p><u>What do people Believe about God?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do Muslims believe about Allah? (The Arabic word for God is Allah) What do Muslims believe about the Holy Quran, Allah's gift to humanity? <p><u>Expressing – Salvation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?
Music	Computing	French	PSHE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music – Recreate the sounds of the Rainforest. Identify the musical elements (and be able to define them) dynamics (loud and quiet); texture (Layering of sounds) Explore and discover sound makers in the environment (including own body and voice) Identify how the sounds are made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating and using databases. Presenting information. Using search engines safely and effectively. Internet Safety. 	<p><u>Learning about our School</u> What is in our classroom? What is in our pencil case? Doing a PE lesson.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Safety Fair Trade (linked to rainforest topic)
PE			

P.E

P.E lessons are on a **Tuesday** afternoon with our Sports Coach. Please could all children bring warm clothing (tracksuits) as well as their shorts and T-shirts. This is so we can use the playground if it is dry.

This term, classes 2 and 3 will be going to Thornbury Leisure Centre on some **Friday** afternoons (see school calendar) to use the large sports hall and swimming pool. Please make sure that your child has their full PE and swimming kit on these days.

On non-leisure centre weeks, the children will be doing PE on a **Friday** afternoon with Mrs Warnock. Again, please bring warm clothing – even gloves!

Please also ensure that if your child has pierced ears, they are able to remove their own earrings or alternatively have them removed before school on those particular days. If your child is unable to do PE due to an injury or illness, please ensure that you have spoken to me about this beforehand. A written note is preferable.

Please provide your child with a bottle of fresh water every day. This is especially important on PE days.