

# Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1



Dear parents and carers,  
Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely, relaxing break with family and friends. We are excited to start our new term on the Amazon rainforest!

**Strength in Learning.  
Power in Community**



**Writing:** This term, we delve in to the wonders of the Amazon rainforest through the book *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell. We begin with writing 1<sup>st</sup> person narratives of a plane crashing, leaving four children stranded and alone in the depths of the rainforest. We continue our English with some persuasive writing on the delights of eating bugs!



**Reading:** In reading this half term we will focus on learning the skills of prediction, vocabulary and using evidence to justify our answers. We will use a range of texts related to our topic to support us in developing our reading comprehension.



**Maths:** We will start the term by building upon our knowledge of multiplication. We are working on using column multiplication to multiply a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number. We will then move on to division using compact division. Children will also have weekly arithmetic lessons to continually recap our core skills and methods, particularly focussing on adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators as well as improper and mixed fractions.



**Science:** Our topic this term is Mixtures and Separation. We will be looking at the various ways we can separate a range of different mixtures using varied utensils. We will focus on using our knowledge of the properties of each material to help us select the most appropriate equipment.



**Geography:** This term our topic focusses on South America. We will use our mapping skills to identify rivers, types of landscapes, flora and fauna of different regions. We will begin to develop our knowledge and understanding of trade and economic links within the region and assess how human activity impacts the local and wider region.



**Music:** This half-term, the children will be taking inspiration from their Amazon topic with an initial focus on Latin American music. They will be listening to and sharing instruments that are often used and have a go at performing a range of Samba rhythms as a class. The favourite ones will then be used to help form a piece of music to represent the Amazon Rainforest later in the term.



**PSHE:** This term, we will be learning about living in the wider world and focussing on the impact of social media. We will develop skills to manage peer influence and develop strategies to identify and access support so that we can remain safe online.



**Computing:** In this unit, children will be using and creating our own databases and learning how to use the sort function.



**PE:** Our indoor P.E lessons will focus on gymnastics where we will focus on body tension and balance. Our outdoor lessons this half term focus on learning the skills used in basketball. We will focus on correct hand positioning as well as different passing techniques and when to use them. We will build on our skills from Year 4 to develop our game play.



**RE:** In RE, the big question for the spring term is 'what happens when we die?'. We will recognise that many people believe we have a soul, how funerals can differ within and between worldviews, and use the word atonement when discussing forgiving sins. In particular, we look at some beliefs of the Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism.



**Art:** Our art this term we are exploring collage to create a collage inspired by *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry. We will be exploring ways to create varied textures using a range of media and using these to create a final piece that includes layers.



**MFL:** In French, the children are learning some food and drink items and how to order in a cafe. This is building on what they learned last term - how to order an ice cream.



**Forest school:** In Forest Schools this half term, the children will be consolidating last term's learning about forces by seeing how much force is needed to lift a child using a lever (our woodland see-saw). They will also be sawing wooden disks and turning them into rainforest animals by colouring them and adding felt.

If you have any questions at all please contact us or catch us at the end of the school day.

Please ensure the children come into school ready for PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. With the colder weather please ensure your child comes to school with a coat and gloves/scarf if needed. Daily reading makes a huge difference—please record this in your child's reading record. Homework and spellings go home each Thursday and are due by the following Thursday. Please ensure all clothing is labelled as this helps us to return jumpers etc to their owners.