



Rainforests



Welcome to the Summer Term...and what an exciting term it is looking to be!

The children will be immersed into the ecosystems of the rainforest; make and bake delicious banana sweet treats; create beautifully crafted collages and much, much more! Not forgetting the exciting news that swimming commences too. It has been wonderful to see the children back in school and eager to carry on their hard work from the Spring and Autumn terms, as we continue to prepare them for their final year at primary school in September—exciting times!

As always, if you have any concerns or wish to speak to any of the year 5 teachers, please do not hesitate to contact us on our emails.

5Q: mr.quilter@greattotham.essex.sch.uk or 5G: mrs.craig@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

The Year 5 team.



English

The children will use our topic to write stories, compose poetry and produce information texts on a variety of stimuli ranging from rainforest animals to exciting adventures under the canopy. They will then study Percy Fawcett to allow them to complete a biography of his life and his significant explorations, where they learn how to make their writing easier to read and more coherent and cohesive in structure. During these units of work, the children will continue to work on their vocabulary choices to engage their audiences, develop greater understanding of clause structures and they will then experiment with these to produce well thought out pieces of writing. The children will also begin to develop more advanced punctuation techniques by being introduced to semi-colons. To help the children become more accomplished writers, we will find lots of opportunities for the children to see writing being modelled by adults, as we know this technique can have a huge impact.

Maths

Angles and shape recognition will feature heavily in the first half term when the children learn how to measure and draw angles accurately with protractors. Once this is mastered, the children will begin to use their understanding of shapes and angles to reason and problem solve. Number, as ever, will be a key focus, across the whole term. We will continue to refresh and revise the children's understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages and their interlinked relationship. In the second half of the term, the children will be applying their knowledge in a range of contexts, as they complete lots of problem solving. Finally, they will look at rotations, translations and reflection on a co-ordinate grid and line graphs with statistics.

Guided Reading

Guided reading continues on a Monday where the children will continue to develop their understanding of inference, hone their retrieval skills and make sensible predictions. Understanding the use of vocabulary and analysing how it is used to enhance a text, will also feature heavily and this should benefit their writing, as they look to see how experienced writers engage their audiences purposefully.

Topic

The children will continue their journey through America from their work last term on Central America (with the Mayans) and in particular this term, the continent of South America, as we study rainforests. The Amazon Rainforest will be a specific focus for the children, as we look in detail at the climate required to create a rainforest. The children will also look at the layers that make up a rainforest and the animals that would be found within these layers based on their attributes and characteristics. We will also look at how their characteristics are suited to their habitats, whether it be a winged animal in the emergent layer, a courageous climber in the canopy or ground dwellers with wonderful camouflage skills.

At the end of the term, we will then look at the dangers and threats rainforests face from the impact of humans, as we analyse how the current way the human race is living is having a devastating effect on the 'world's lungs' with deforestation. The children will also touch upon how this is then affecting the eco-systems and habitats of the animals that live within rainforest—an ideal opportunity to get a piece of persuasive writing in we think!

Computing

Safety and staying safe online will kick off the term, as the children learn to take screenshots, report websites that concern them and develop their knowledge of privacy settings on devices. The children then will create multimedia presentations, including sound/video files and still images when creating superhero movie trailers. Maybe we will have the next Stan Lee (Marvel creator) in our midst? This unit is a fabulous chance for the children to explore how to use timings, animations and transitions and is lots of fun!

PE

PE is rounders on a Monday and swimming on a Tuesday morning in the first half term. Those that do not swim in the second half term (with the optional session), will partake in running sessions to build stamina with the aim for the children to be able to run long distance without stopping. Alongside swimming in the second half term the children will develop athletic skills in jumping, throwing and sprint hurdling. Please ensure the children have their PE kit in ready on a Monday as it really helps and is appreciated.

Art

Linked to our rainforest topic, the children will create collages of rainforest animals. They will explore the effects of shape and texture with different materials whilst experimenting with layering and embellishing techniques to create final masterpieces. We are really looking forwards to the final work, which we will create a beautiful gallery outside the classroom — we will of course take some photos so you can see the children's work in all its glory!

Music

A specialist music teacher will teach the children how to compose music using the pentatonic scale and also how to read and play music on a variety of tuned and un-tuned instruments.



Science

The children look into the lifecycles of animals including, reptiles, birds, amphibians, plants and mammals. The latter enables us to introduce our RSE unit as we look specifically at puberty with the children (see separate Lifeskills section).

In the second half term, we study the physics of forces. The children will complete investigations on air and water resistance, improve their understanding of friction and then begin to develop their knowledge of mechanisms such as: levers, gears and pulleys getting them ready for year 6 where this journey is continued. These investigations will then be written up to practice applying their writing structures and science vocabulary.

Swimming

Please make sure you familiarise yourself with the letters that have been emailed to you in the last week, as this explains all the essential information you need know. The children have had this information explained to them too.

French

Looking at food vocabulary and their likes and dislikes will form the majority of the term, as the children continue their journey into the French language. Working on noun and verb genders (masculine and feminine) will help the children to write longer sentences and develop their understanding of French grammar.

DT

Delicious banana sweet treats are on the menu this term, as the children explore fair trade products and air miles for ingredients to see how this has an effect on rainforests. At the end of the learning they will make and bake crumbly banana squares. Allergy letters will be sent out nearer the time.

RE

The children will continue to develop their understanding of the faiths of Islam and Christianity through studying how they pray and worship their respective gods. Once the children have mastered this understanding, they will be asked to compare the different practices and also look at the similarities of both faiths that are based on love and compassion.

Homework

Homework will continue on a Monday and be due in on the Thursday of that week and will be mainly online with My Maths or Google Classrooms. Guided reading homework will also continue following the same schedule above.

Lifeskills

RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) will form a large part of this term's work, as the children study the life cycle of mammals in science and then look at one specific part of that lifecycle in humans, puberty. The children will begin in mixed groups, as they are taught about the physical and emotionally changes both sexes go through in puberty, with it being vital that the children begin to understand what happens to their body and those around them in this strange, and sometimes confusing, time. Later in the unit, the children will be split into different gender groups so questions can be answered specific to them. Throughout the unit, there will also be opportunities to ask confidential questions in the form of an anonymous question box where worries can be addressed without fear of embarrassment. We imagine there will be a few giggles (which is to be expected) as we introduce some of the vocabulary the children may find embarrassing and humorous at first, but this soon becomes an interesting topic which the children engage with really well. We also hope it allows the children to open up and discuss this topic at home as it removes the 'awkwardness' that sometimes can be evident when approaching this subject with your child for the first time.

Also this term, the children will look at budgeting, rights and laws, stereotypes and developing self esteem.