



Newsletter

Spring Term



We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and are ready for the new exciting things we have planned for this term.

This newsletter will share some important information about what your children will be learning and give you notice about some exciting events we have planned for the Spring Term.

Our Topic: Rainforests

During the Spring term we will be taking a geography lead and focusing our learning on an in-depth study of South American Rainforests.

We will begin our geography studies by looking at the wider world and linking the position of rainforests to the Equator and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

We will do an in-depth study of the layers of the rainforest and the plants and creatures that live there, linking this to new geographical terminology such as biomes, vegetation belts and topographical features.

We will then complete our work as Geographers by studying the effects of climate change and deforestation on the Rainforests and how we can help.

Reading

As Readers we will be reading 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo and as Authors we will be inspired by the book 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry to scaffold our writing of persuasive letters.

Science

As scientists we will be looking at the digestive system and teeth! We will then move onto looking at the animal kingdom and food chains, studying the vocabulary associated with this.

Technology

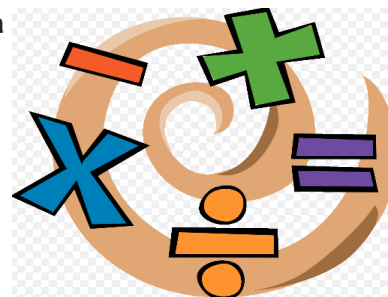
As Technologists we will be designing and evaluating our own 'Explorers Torch' which will link with our previous learning in science about electricity. You may want to start thinking about a design and collecting any resources you may want to use to make your torch unique maybe camouflaged to blend into a Rainforest. We will be making a prototype in Spring 1.

Maths

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Researchers have found that children who have fast recall of their times tables at an early age are more successful in Maths at secondary school. Already we have found when looking at maths themes such as division, perimeter and problem solving that the children in the class who are confident with their multiplication tables are more successful than those who are less confident.

The National Multiplication Check will take place in June for all year 4 pupils in the UK. The purpose of the challenge is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which, as we have said is essential for future success in mathematics. The test is an online test and pupils are asked 25 questions on time tables from 2 to 12. They are given six seconds to answer and type each answer before the question disappears.



It is important that children spend time learning their times tables in the 'old fashioned' way with paper and pencils or practising saying them and responding to questions out loud before using computer programs. We find that when children go straight to computer programs such as 'Times Table Rockstars', 'Prodigy' or 'Daily 10' they spend a lot of time guessing the answers which doesn't consolidate their learning. These programs are really effective when children already have a good grasp of the times table they are practising as it allows them to improve their quick recall and practise answering questions in a format similar to the Multiplication Check they will experience in June.



We will continue to send spellings home every Monday, the spellings of the week will be tested every Monday morning.

We are placing a huge emphasis on learning Times Tables this term. The children will continue to be tested each Friday against the clock to prepare them to be able to recall answers instantly without the need to count up. As we move closer to the test, we will start to complete the test digitally so they are confident by June.

Events to look forward to

To help make our learning about rainforests truly memorable – and to deepen the children's understanding – we are delighted to share that we have booked a special visit from Jo Jungle. Jo will be joining us in school on the 19th March to talk about rainforest habitats and the amazing creatures that live there.

She will also be bringing along a selection of real animals for the children to meet. The children will have the opportunity to handle some of them if they feel brave enough! We are very excited about this visit, as it will give the children a unique, hands-on learning experience that supports our rainforest topic beautifully.

We are also looking forward to welcoming visiting textile artist Jess Grady, who will be working with the children to create fabric leaves using a range of sewing and collage techniques. These pieces will form part of a collaborative sculpture for the upcoming 'My Favourite Tree' exhibition at Mansfield Museum.

This workshop will take place on the afternoon of 22 January.

PE

Our PE days this term will continue to be Monday, Wednesday and Swimming on Friday. Swimming will finish this half term. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school and it is all named.



Thank you!

As always, we want to say a huge thank you for all of your support over the last term and moving forwards. Thank you in particular for donations of cookery books and graphic novels– we are still happy to receive these into school as they are so popular with the children at reading times, the more we can get the better!

Dates For Your Diary

PE: Every Monday and Wednesday

Swimming every Friday up until
February half term.

Break up for Half Term:

Friday 13th February 2026

Back to school after Half Term:

Monday 23rd February 2026

