

Amazon Adventure

Spring Term 2023

Years 5&6



English

In English, children will be studying stories from other cultures and making use of a model text to guide their own narrative writing. They will explore a writer's technique in order to influence their own writing style.

Our class text, *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell, will enable children to read daily as a class, asking questions of the text and adopting key techniques used by this highly proficient author. Through this story, we will follow the journey of a group of children through the Amazon Rainforest, making links to our overarching topic where relevant.

To develop children's non-fiction writing skills, we will be writing a formal, persuasive letter with an environmental link. Children will learn to understand the need to change register or tone as a writer, shaping their awareness of audience and purpose.

Later in the term, we will be reading a range of poetry, producing poems and using specific poetic techniques.

Mathematics

Children will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills within the core mathematical areas covered over the term. They will also work towards increasing speed and accuracy with the rapid recall of KIRFS, including multiplication and division facts within and beyond 12 x 12.

Year 5

The key areas of learning over the term will include:

- Fractions, Decimals & Percentages
- Measures: converting; length; area and volume
- Position and Direction: coordinates

Year 6

The key areas of learning over the term will include:

- Fractions, Decimals & Percentages
- Measures
- Statistics
- Ratio & Proportion
- Algebra

Science

As **Scientists** we will be investigating the topic of Living Things and their Habitats. Children will study the life cycles of a range of different plants, amphibians, reptiles and mammals and consider how each one is adapted for the environment in which it lives. Throughout the topic, there will be a particular focus on the ecosystems found in the Amazon Rainforest and the ways in which animals and plants that live there co-exist.

Geography & History

As **Geographers** we will be using a range of information sources, including maps and atlases, to investigate the location and climate features of the Americas. Children will locate where the world's rainforests are as well as exploring the Amazon region, whilst also experiencing the conditions of a rainforest at the Living Rainforest. The Amazon River's impact on the before Rainforest ecosystem will also be investigated and compared to our local rivers. We shall also be exploring the effects of trade and modern life on the Amazon Rainforest.

As **Historians**, we will place the Mayan civilisation in time, understanding chronology and comparing the dates of key events to other moments in time around the world. In connection with geography work, the children will locate where the Maya people lived and question the challenges they faced. We will also consider the daily life of the Maya population, researching how their people lived and how the civilisation evolved over time. The children will also analyse Mayan artefacts, learn about their beliefs and find out about how Mayan traditions live on.

RE

Children will explore two big questions over the term:

- Does the community of the Mosque help Muslims lead better lives? (Islam)
- Was the death of Jesus a worthwhile sacrifice? (Christianity)

Understanding Christianity Units:

- What did Jesus do to save human beings? 2b.6

Art

As **Artists** we will investigate the work of Henry Rousseau, with a particular focus on 'Surprise; Tropical Tiger in a Storm'. We will create rainforest animal pictures using chalk and oil pastel and learn different techniques for painting foliage. We will then use and apply our learning by producing our own rainforest art using a range of media in the style of Rousseau's work.

D&T

As **Design Technologists** we will be learning a range of different stitches and then applying our new sewing skills to designing a fabric wall hanging in the style of Henri Rousseau using applique techniques.

In food technology, we will be cooking healthy chocolate flapjacks using fairtrade and Mayan inspired ingredients and designing packaging for these with a Mayan theme.

PSHE

Health and Wellbeing: Drugs and Drug Awareness Children learn the difference between legal and illegal drugs, exploring the impact on the human body and mind. Themes of addiction and peer pressure will form a key part of this topic, as children are encouraged to develop opinions and offer their future selves good health advice.

RSE: Children learn about puberty and physical change in the male and female body. Themes include healthy relationships, periods and how babies are made.

PE

Children will explore invasion games in the form of Rugby and Hockey this term. They will further their ability with ball mastery as well as learning the sport through skill practices and then onto small-sided games with a focus on increasing the amount of contact they have with the ball. Our indoor sessions will focus on Dance and Gymnastics where children can build on prior learning and begin to work more collaboratively.

Computing

Following the Teach Computing Scheme children will study the following units:

- Programming – Variables in Games
- Creating Media – Web Page Creation

Online Safety: Cyberbullying - An E-safety expert will come into school to deliver age-appropriate training about the effects of cyberbullying including strategies that could be used to stop and avoid it. Links with Safer Internet Day.

Music

Children will discover music from different countries – exploring similarities and differences.

Children's learning is focused around two songs: The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and A New Year Carol. Children will work through an integrated approach to music where games, the interrelated dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc.), singing and playing instruments are all linked. They will also compose a piece of music using a graphic score.

French

Children will be taught to speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity.

Topics for the term include:

- Telling the Time
- School
- Home
- Hobbies

We will be exchanging letters with our partner school.

Curriculum Enrichment

- Living Rainforest Visit
- Mayan Workshop (Pitt Rivers Museum)
- Virtual Mosque Visit
- International Day of Prayer (Y5 only)