|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | V:\Ofsted_Good_GP_Colour.jpg |

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and the children had a restful Christmas break, ready for a new term of learning!

Our new topic this term is ‘Ecosystem Explorers’. Here is a summary of what we will be learning:

In English, we will continue reading ‘The Explorer’ by Katherine Rundell. With this novel, we will be developing our adventure story writing skills and focussing on structuring our sentences, paragraphs and stories correctly for the genre and to excite our readers. We will also be focussing on our descriptive language and direct speech using inverted commas. Later in the term, we will be developing our non-fiction writing, by focussing on deforestation in a persuasive letter to convince others to protect the rainforest. Here, we will look at a range of exciting picture books to inspire us, such as ‘The Vanishing Rainforest’ by Richard Platt and The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry to inspire our vocabulary and reasoning. We will learn to structure balanced arguments using paragraphs and causal conjunctions.

We will continue with our weekly spelling as part of our homework, as well as embedding punctuation and grammar work into our lessons each day.

We will immerse ourselves in a novel every day during independent reading and I will continue to encourage the children to read at home every evening. Our class reader this term is ‘Tom’s Midnight Garden,’ as voted for by the children!

In our Guided Reading sessions, we will continue with our Whole Class sessions looking at a theme each week and exploring a range of text types such as non-chronological reports, song lyrics, biographies and poems. The children really enjoy our discussions during these lessons – there are often very thoughtful and sensible contributions!

In Maths, our Power Maths scheme will continue to ensure we use a range of problem-solving language and vocabulary, participate in discussions and provide practical experiences with concrete resources such as hundred squares. This term, we will be continuing with our learning on multiplication and division before moving on to looking at area and then fractions and decimals.

In Science, we will build upon our research and classification skills in our learning about living things and their habitats. We will be investigating the different species of animal and what they need to survive, before investigating how the environments they live in allow this. We will also explore the food chain of predators, prey and primary producers (plants), untangling the web of their interdependence. Finally, we’ll look at how changing environments threaten species. We will be making links to our Science learning in Computing, by making our own PowerPoint presentations to show to the class all about an animal of our choice and its habitat.

In Geography, we will explore the Amazon Rainforest. We will embark on a journey through its different layers to explore the animal and plant life forms and how the ecosystem provides for their living requirements. We will be making our own layered Amazon Rainforests through an Art/D.T. project at the beginning of term! We will then be studying the jungle art of Henri Rousseau and using layered paintings to create an image of endangered animals in the rainforest.

Our topic in PSHE this term is ‘One World,’ which will focus on the changing world around us. We will be learning about stereotypes and debating fair/unfair concepts in the world. Our RE learning will be about Hinduism (we return to this world religion in Terms 1, 3, and 5.)

In PE, we will be looking at the Cognitive Cog of Real PE alongside Yoga. Our PE sessions this term will be on a Tuesday and a Friday afternoon. Please therefore ensure your child wears their full, named PE kits in school on these days so that they can participate. We will also be completing the Daily Mile every day, as well as dancing brain breaks.

The homework this term will be set on Seesaw: please let me know if you are unable to access the internet and therefore need a paper copy. The homework will consist of: one maths task to consolidate the week’s learning, either on MyMaths or an alternative set task, a writing task, which will be linked to a topic or English, and some spellings to memorise for our weekly test. Please also log in to practise Times Tables Rock stars and read a book as often as possible.

Thank you for your continued support – please do let me know if you have any questions about our learning this term.

Kind regards,

Miss Doone