



'Being Better Every Day'

Thursday 13th February 2025

Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter – Term 4

Dear Parents/ Carers

We are excited to share our fourth curriculum newsletter of the school year! We are continuing to learn about the Ancient Mayan Civilization this Term, but with a geography focus on the rainforests. During Term 3, we learnt some incredible information about the ancient Mayan civilisation, including how they were able to farm the land to survive, discovered a year has 365 days and some of the main causes of the civilisation's end. We can't wait to learn more about this fascinating unit!

In **Term 4**, our unit title will remain as **'Rainforest Realms'**. There is a big focus on **Geography** in this unit.

In this unit, we will be zooming in on Mesoamerica, where the ancient Mayan civilisation was based, or as we now know it – Mexico! We will be looking closely at the continents of North and South America, identifying and labelling the countries in them and even their capital cities! We will be looking in detail at the layers of the rainforest and their climates, before diving in to how they are suitable habitats for animals and different vegetation. We will then look closely at the impacts of deforestation, climate change, tourism and trade on the rainforests.

During this unit, your child will attempt to answer the concept question:



"How does the modern world impact on rainforests?"

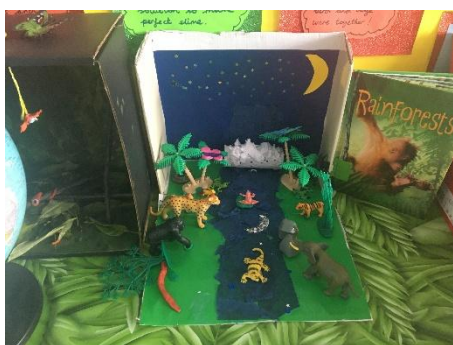
(We have attached a 'Knowledge Organiser' for this unit, providing an overview of the topic; this should be a useful resource for pupils and parents.)

Home Learning Project

For each unit, we will ask your child to complete a home-learning project. We ask that every child has a go at completing a project that can be brought into school. For this unit, we have listed possible ideas below.

- **Draw a picture or make a model of a rainforest. You could include pictures of the animals that live in it, vegetation that grows there or even label the different layers!**
- **Research an animal that lives in the rainforest. Create a fact file based on them.**
- **Create a poster to encourage people to protect the rainforests. You can include things being done to harm the rainforest and steps that can be taken to protect it.**
- **Research a rainforest in the world. Create a fact file or poster to show your research.**

Alternatively, your child may want to do something completely different! Your child may wish to complete their project by themselves or need your support in completing their project – either is fine and we look forward to see them.



We have also included a list of websites you could explore at home to help your child with their learning:

Useful Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw/articles/zqv6msg>

https://school-learningzone.co.uk/key_stage_two/ks2_history/world_history/the_mayan_civilisation/the_mayan_civilisation.html

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/the-maya>

https://www.ducksters.com/history/maya/daily_life.php

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/>

Home learning projects should be completed by the **week beginning Monday 31st March 2025**. If you have any questions about the home learning project, please contact your child's class teacher.

Reading

The children have been really enjoying our 'Destination Reader' work in class. Our next shared book will be '**Dead Man's Cove**' by **Lauren St. John**. Please continue to encourage daily reading using home reading records that must be brought in and will be signed once a week.

Reading is the single most important skill that children will learn and we expect every child to read at home every day. In Year 5, we expect every child to read with an adult for a minimum of 20 minutes every day. Reading takes on many forms and can take place just about anywhere, including the reading of labels and signs, and in magazines and comics. Parents and carers should record the daily reading activity in your child's reading record.

Homework

Additionally, we would like the children to be practising their times tables every day for at least 20 minutes. They all have an individual account for **Times Table Rock Stars**, which they are expected to use for this. The aim is for the children to be confident with their times tables.

A menu of optional homework activities will also be sent home. Please send in any completed work to your child's class teacher.

PE

This term, our PE lessons will continue to take place on **Thursday** afternoons. Your child should continue to wear a suitable PE kit to school on this day.

We hope your child will enjoy this exciting term in Year 5.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. Spiers

Year 5 Class Teacher, Phase Leader



Mr W. Mitchell

Year 5 Class Teacher

KNOWLEDGE – EQUALITY – DETERMINATION – ACHIEVEMENT