

During this half term our enquiry is:

What are rainforests and what actions can we take to improve their sustainability?

Across the curriculum, children will deepen their understanding of rainforests through a rich blend of subjects. In English, they will develop their grammar skills before writing informative texts about temperate and tropical rainforests, create vivid setting descriptions inspired by *The Great Kapok Tree*, and take on the role of Charles Darwin to practise formal and informal letter writing. Geography will see them locating and comparing rainforests around the world, studying their physical features and threats such as deforestation, and even experiencing a “Rainforest Survival Day” at Hamsterley Forest. In Science and History, children will investigate evolution, inheritance, and Darwin’s work on adaptation and classification. Art will link to the enquiry through rainforest-inspired painting, while in PE, music, French, computing, PSHCE and RE, they will build a wide range of skills and knowledge to complement their learning. Together, this enquiry will not only strengthen their literacy and critical thinking but also encourage them to reflect on sustainability and the role we all play in protecting our planet.

Subject	Activities / areas to be covered in school	Possible learning at home
English	We are starting the year by strengthening our foundations in grammar and punctuation through <i>The Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar</i> units. This will help the children become more confident in their sentence construction and ready for the exciting writing projects ahead. Our first piece of extended writing will be non-fiction. Linking with geography, the children will be writing to inform their reader about temperate and tropical rainforests, focusing on their similarities and differences. They will be practising how to structure clear explanations, use technical vocabulary and present information in an engaging way. We will then move on to <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i> by Lynne Cherry, a beautifully illustrated picture book that highlights the importance of protecting the rainforest. Using this text as inspiration, the children will write a detailed setting description, drawing on rich vocabulary and figurative language to capture the beauty and atmosphere of the rainforest. Alongside this, the children will also be reading a shared class novel purely for pleasure: <i>Journey to the River Sea</i> by Eva Ibbotson	Encourage your child to read regularly – both their class novel and any books of their choice. Talking about characters, settings and themes is a great way to build deeper understanding. Discuss the differences between formal and informal language. You could compare how they might text a friend versus how they would write a letter to a teacher or apply for a job. Explore non-fiction texts about rainforests, animals or the natural world together. This could be through books, documentaries or reputable websites. Build vocabulary by noticing and collecting “wow words” from books, conversations or even when out and about. Encourage regular practice of punctuation and grammar basics (capital letters, commas, apostrophes) so these become second nature when writing.

Maths	This half term, the children will be reviewing and extending their understanding of place value up to 10,000,000. This will lead us into the development of ordering and rounding larger numbers. They will also be working with negative numbers, common factors, common multiples, prime, square and cubed numbers. Moving forward, they will develop their skills in the four operations, including mental and formal methods in long multiplication and long division. They will learn about the order of operations (BODMAS) and finish the half term developing their understanding of decimals. Daily arithmetic practice will take place to ensure skills are revisited and embedded. All concepts learnt throughout the half term will be developed through reasoning and problem solving to ensure the children can apply their knowledge and understanding. They will also be looking to extend our understanding through our explanations in reasoning challenges.	Keep practising those times tables through Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) as you need to keep your recall knowledge sharp. You might want to explore other ways of learning your tables using singing videos on Youtube.
Science	<i>Evolution and Inheritance</i> In this unit of work Year 6 will recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. They will recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents. They will also identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. Where relevant, we will apply our learning in Science to the context of rainforests, linking with the learning in History and Geography. Year 6 will be developing their scientific enquiry skill of Identifying and Classifying; using classification systems and keys to identify some animals and plants in the rainforest environment. In addition to this, they will research unfamiliar animals and plants from a range of habitats, including rainforests, and decide where they belong in the classification system.	You might find it interesting to carry out research into the work of Charles Darwin and what happened when he visited the Galapagos islands. Alternatively, you could find out about Jane Goodall (Chimpanzees) or the American geneticist Barbara McClintock whose work into genes won her a Nobel prize! You could carry out some observation over time by selecting a specific animal and finding out about how an aspect of it has changed over time, for example the skeleton of a horse or a birds' beak.
Physical Education	This half term, year 6 will be taking part in PE on Tuesdays and Fridays. On a Tuesday afternoon, the children will work with Mrs Dresser, completing their Tag Rugby skills. Make sure you have outdoor footwear and weather appropriate clothing as this lesson will take place on the school field.	I wonder if you can set yourself a physical challenge to help you keep fit and healthy this half term. How does exercise make you feel? Consider how you feel before, during and after physical activity.

Year 6

Autumn 1 Overview



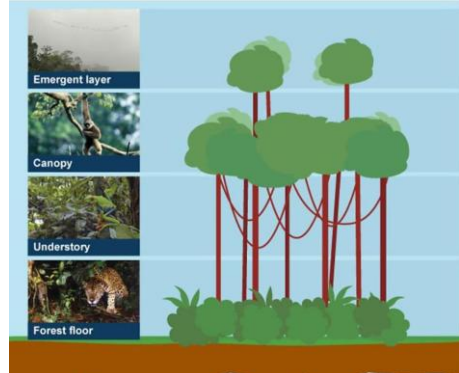
	On a Friday afternoon, Year 6 will take part in indoor PE with Mrs Black. Our first indoor unit will be Gymnastics. Children should attend school in their school PE kit on their PE days. When it is particularly wet outside, a change of shoes may be useful on a Tuesday 😊	Have you been watching any sport over the summer? Is there an athlete who stood out to you? What makes a successful athlete? 
PSHCE	<i>My Healthy Self: How do my choices today shape my future health?</i> This half term, Year 6 children will explore how the choices they make each day can influence their physical and emotional health, both now and in the future. They will learn about looking after their teeth, making informed food choices by understanding nutritional labels, and the importance of sleep, rest and regular physical activity. Children will also consider how habits such as excessive screen time, inactivity and unhealthy eating can affect their wellbeing, and how advertising and other influences can shape their choices. Alongside physical health, they will develop their understanding of emotions and feelings, learning ways to regulate their responses, manage difficult emotions and reflect on their thoughts and behaviour. The overall aim is to help children make positive, informed choices that support a healthy and balanced lifestyle.	Healthy Choices Challenge – Together, choose one small healthy habit to focus on for a week, such as drinking more water, having a balanced breakfast, getting outside for some exercise, or having a consistent bedtime. At the end of the week, talk about how the change made them feel and whether they noticed any difference in their energy, mood or concentration. Food Label Detectives – Next time you are shopping, choose two or three similar foods and look at their nutritional labels together. Ask your child to compare the amounts of sugar, fat and salt and discuss why we might choose one food over another. Encourage them to think about advertising and packaging too: “What is this product trying to make us think or feel?”
Religious Education	This half term we will be exploring the questions: <i>How do Christians live? What would Jesus do?</i> In this unit, pupils will explore the four Gospels, identifying key similarities and differences. They will consider their contexts and Christian traditions, including the sources used by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Pupils will examine Jesus’ direct teaching, parables and stories, discussing their meanings and relevance for Christians today. They will explore the Christian understanding of Jesus’ ‘good news’ and how his example influences Christian behaviour. Finally, pupils will consider how Christian communities today put Jesus’ teachings into practice.	Spend time thinking about what you believe and if you have any further questions to add to our discussions. Good News Jar ❤️ Create a family “Good News Jar”. Throughout the week, write down examples of kindness, helpfulness or good news and read them together at the end of the week. Acts of Kindness Challenge 🌟 As a family, complete three acts of kindness during the week. Afterwards, discuss how these actions reflect Jesus’ teachings.

Year 6

Autumn 1 Overview



Art	In this art unit, children will explore the rainforest through painting, investigating the vibrant colours, patterns, shapes and textures found in nature. They will be inspired by artists Henri Rousseau, John Dyer and Rachel Parker, looking at how artists use colour and pattern to represent the natural world. Children will experiment with colour mixing, layering and painting techniques, before designing their own rainforest-inspired motifs and combining them into a repeating wallpaper-style painting. Alongside developing their artistic skills, children will learn why rainforests are important and consider how art can raise awareness of sustainability and protecting our planet.	Look closely and observe nature around you. Think about line, shape, colour and texture. Try sketching, printing and taking rubbings of things that you find and see; start building up your own sketchpad full of wonderful drawings and artistic experiments. There are lots of step-by-step tutorial online if you need some inspiration. They're great fun!
Music	This term, Year 6 will be beginning their recorder sessions. They will learn how to play an array of notes on the recorder and, to progress from Year 5, will look at notes which require using both hands to play. Each note is introduced with a song about child-friendly characters. The words of the songs give the rhythm of each piece and there is a simple guide to reading music.	Have a go at some of these free music games: https://musicteachers.co.uk/resources/games They help you remember the notes and practise your rhythm!
French	This half term, Year 6 will begin by revisiting their French phonics knowledge to refresh their pronunciation skills. We will then review numbers 1–20 before extending our learning to count confidently all the way up to 100. This will help pupils strengthen both their spoken and written French, as well as build confidence for more complex vocabulary and conversations later in the year.	Encourage your child to practise saying numbers in French aloud — you could count objects around the house together or quiz each other while travelling in the car. Listening to short French songs or videos about numbers (for example, on YouTube or BBC Bitesize) can also make learning fun and reinforce pronunciation. A great app, which you can use for free, is 'Duolingo'. Make sure you choose French as the chosen language. 

Geography	In geography this half term, the children will learn about the rainforests of the world. They will begin by researching and locating temperate and tropical rainforests around the globe and then will learn about the physical features of a rainforest. The children will identify the climate zones in which rainforests are found and explore other biomes that exist in different conditions. We will then bring our learning closer to home when we visit Hamsterley Forest where the children will engage in a Rainforest Survival Day. Following this, the children will locate and plot, using six figure grid referencing, other UK forests on a map. They will also learn about the importance of rainforest sustainability, threats to the rainforest – such as deforestation - and the impact we can have on climate change.	Can you find out about each layer of the rainforest? Who lives there? What is it like? 
History	In history, the children will learn about <i>Charles Darwin</i> and his theory of evolution and how this has impacted on how we understand animal adaptation and classification today. The children will learn about the life and achievements of Charles Darwin and will complete a fact file detailing their research and understanding.	If you are eager to find out more, start by watching this clip: History KS2 The Victorians: Charles Darwin BBC Teach - YouTube Can you find out: • Where was he born? • What significant event happened in his life? • What was Charles Darwin most famous for? • How is this person still celebrated today?
Computing	This half term we will be looking at Communication and Collaboration. In this unit, children explore how data is transferred over the internet. We initially focus on addressing, before we move on to the makeup and structure of data packets. Children then look at how the internet facilitates online communication and collaboration; they complete shared projects online and evaluate different methods of communication. Finally, they learn how to communicate responsibly by considering what should and should not be shared on the internet.	What do you know about the internet? How can we communicate online? In what ways can the internet help you work collaboratively with others?

Homework	Each week, the children will receive homework on a Friday. This should be returned to school the following Wednesday. <u>Reading</u> • All children will have a <u>reading record</u>. The expectation is that children in year 6 read for a sustained period of time each night and really ‘get into a good book’. Their reading record should be returned to school each Wednesday to be checked by a member of staff who will change reading books when needed. • Although many children in year 6 are fluent readers and are likely to be reading independently by this age, parents/carers still need to hear them read out loud to develop their fluency and expression in harder texts. <u>Spelling</u> • Each week, the children will learn and focus on a spelling rule or word(s) from the year 5/6 statutory word list. Children will have spelling activities as part of their homework - this will be in preparation for a spelling test each Monday. <u>Maths</u> • Maths homework will focus on children’s fluency skills and will be linked to the week’s learning. The children should be familiar with the style of questions on the homework and use this as an opportunity to practice and rehearse their skills. <u>Punctuation and Grammar</u> • Punctuation and grammar questions may be set as part of homework and will reflect the focus of the week’s learning. <u>Enquiry – Wider Curriculum</u> • There are suggested activities in each half term’s overview linked to the wider curriculum to complete at home. In addition, the children may receive some homework linked to the curriculum enquiry. This will be optional project/creative activities. In year 6 we aim to get the balance right and work with parents to best prepare children for the expectations of each stage of learning. It is worth noting that getting children into the habit of regular homework prepares them for the demands of secondary school. We expect everyone to be treated equally, and all children are required to complete homework. Class teachers are available to support and help children with their homework if they are stuck or unsure – please do not hesitate to ask.
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