

Autumn Term 2020-21

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter



Topic: Rainforests and the Maya

This term we are going on a journey through the Amazon rainforest where we will discover the exciting ancient Mayan civilisation. Our topic is based around an adventurer/explorer called Ed Stafford who walked the entire Amazon. He is going to send us on some Commando Joe missions where we will develop our resilience and tolerance skills.



Commando Joe R.E.S.P.E.C.T.:

Our curriculum this term is based around the COJO RESPECT 'Character Behaviour Traits' – Resilience, Empathy, Self-Awareness, Passion, Excellence, Communication and Teamwork. Ed Stafford, an inspirational character, will lead us on several missions where we will develop our characters through fun and engaging activities.

PHSE: We will discuss what makes a good friend and that friendships have their ups and downs and know that relationships can be worked through.

Art and Design Technology:

We will research the artist Henri Rousseau and use his techniques to create our own rainforest paintings. In design technology, we will plan and make a kit bag for our expedition to the Amazon rainforest. We shall also make our own badges to commemorate 'The Forgotten Army'.

Weekly Events:

Spellings: Every **Wednesday**, starting Wednesday 16th September, there will be a spelling test. The spellings are sent home at the beginning of every term. The marked spelling book will be sent home on Wednesday night so that you know the result.

Reading Challenge: Children are asked to read at home at least 3 times a week to achieve the weekly reading challenge. For us to be sure that they have achieved the challenge, we ask that parents record their child's reading with any comments in the reading diary. Reading Challenge will also be recorded on **Wednesdays**, starting Wednesday 16th September.

Times Tables: The children will have speed tests on their times tables on most days but extra practice at home will ensure the facts are embedded. By the end of Year 4, the children need to be able to recall the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12x tables' facts, with speed as they will be sitting the national Year 4 Multiplication Check.

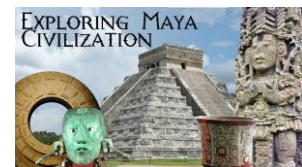
Homework: Each **Thursday** your child will receive a homework task to be completed and handed in by the following **Wednesday**. If he/she struggles with the work given or finds it not challenging enough, please let me know.

PE: Mrs Lee-Turner will be taking our PE lessons in school this term. She will be focussing on multi skills activities based on running, jumping striking, catching, leaping, kicking, power, strength, agility, balance and hand/eye co-ordination.

Reminders: Please could the children come to school dressed in PE kit every Thursday.

Computing: We shall research rainforests safely using the internet; design base camps and develop algorithms for completing obstacle courses.

Science: Light and Rocks will be the foci this term. The children will be investigating how shadows are formed – what makes a shadow larger or smaller? They will compare and categorise different types of rocks and investigate fossils.



History: We shall be finding out about the Mayan civilisation. We want to find out how it developed over time; how society was organised; what their religion and beliefs were and what a typical day was like for them. Also, why did they disappear?

RE: We intend to investigate the main big ideas in the 'Big Story' of Christianity. We will visit the 8 main chapters eg Creation, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation before fitting them together.

Geography: Rainforests will be our topic for this term. We want to understand their structure; find out about the life that lives within them and compare them with our temperate forests.