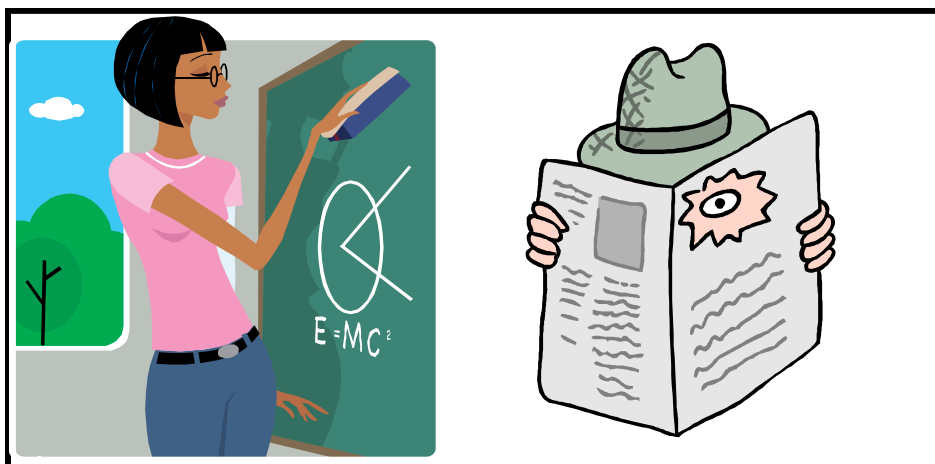


# TERM *talk*

**CURRICULUM NEWS  
FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY**  
Issued Termly Spring Year 6 January–April 2018



## English

For the greater part of the term, the children will be reading and working on the wonderful novel *Kensuke's Kingdom*, written by the former children's laureate **Michael Morpurgo**. As well as reading and understanding the story, the children will be writing predictions about what may happen, and studying new or unusual vocabulary they come across in the story.

The children will use the book as a springboard to writing long, extended pieces of **fiction**. There will be opportunities for dramatic, descriptive writing, writing in role as different characters, diary entries and letter writing. The book will also be used as a stimulus for **non-fiction**, for example children will be writing discussion texts discussing the advantages and disadvantages of a round the world trip. They will research the lives of different rainforest animals to write information texts, and produce persuasive leaflets explaining why rainforests should be preserved and protected. If there is time, children will attempt to create their own first person adventure stories.

Alongside this English work the children will also be completing **spelling and grammar work**. Each week they will cover a different grammar objective and will be encouraged to include what they have learned in their written work throughout the week.

The children will also continue to receive a weekly spelling test or dictation and it is extremely important that they learn their spelling list each week as homework. Each list is based around specific words and spelling patterns which they are required to be able to spell by the end of the year.

**To improve their reading further please ensure your child reads for at least twenty minutes each night. Supporting your child when reading by asking**

**questions and discussing the text is essential as this will help improve their ability to answer comprehension questions.**

## Maths

In the first half of the term we will be exploring number, the concept of estimation, partitioning and calculation using the four operations of +, -, x and ÷, building on what they learned in the Autumn term.

In addition to this the children will look at working with negative numbers and using them in the context of everyday life—such as in temperature and with money. The children will also have the opportunity of consolidating the knowledge they gained last year about Roman Numerals.

The children will also be given a range of challenging problems which involve estimation, multi-step calculations and being able to explain the strategies they have used. Following on from this, the children will improve their knowledge of the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes. This will increase children's knowledge of the properties of a shape in terms of size of internal angles, parallel and perpendicular lines.

In the second half of the term the children will continue to undertake a wide range of problem solving challenges through a range of topics. These include **Handling data, drawing and interpreting a range of graphs, measuring shape, calculating area and perimeter**. There will be a great emphasis on children being able to explain, using mathematical terms, the strategies they have used in order to solve a problem.

**We ask all parents to support their children with the Maths and ensure they are confident knowing, using and applying times tables.**

## Science

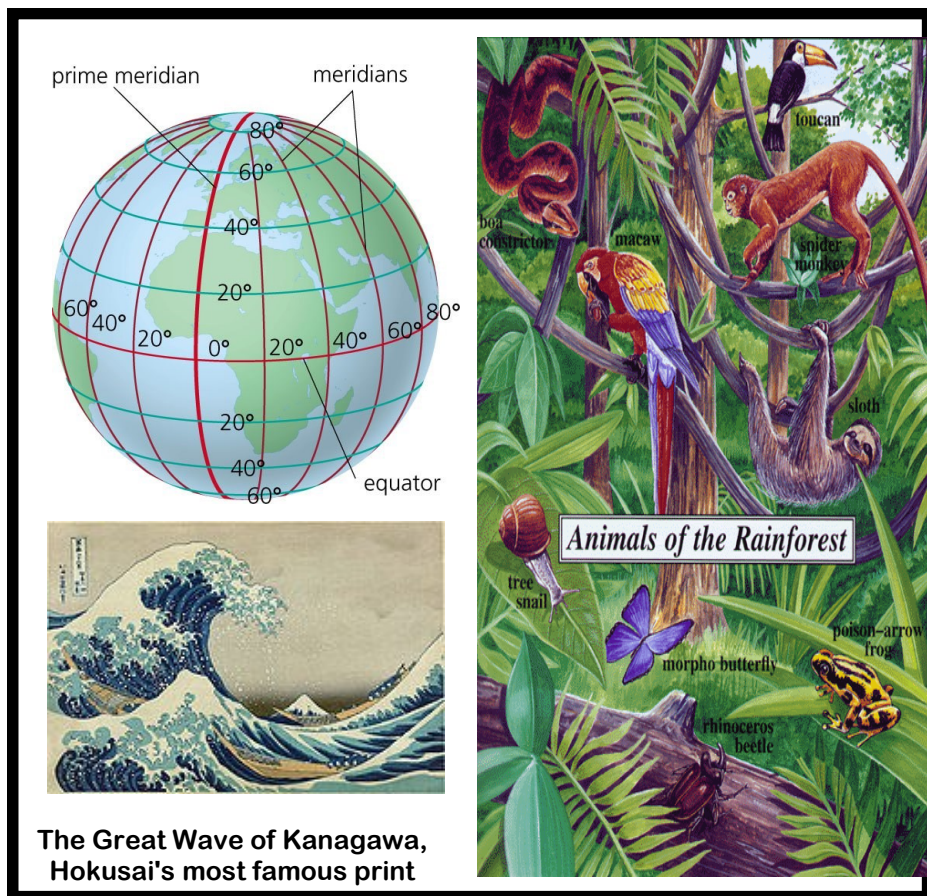
This term the children will start by continuing with the topic **Evolution and Inheritance**. They will be learning about scientists such as Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace and looking at their theories of evolution. They will then discover how animals and plant adapt to fit their surroundings and in order for them to survive.

This topic will be linked with the geography work on rainforest biomes, and the children will learn how plants and animals flourish in these tropical areas.

Following this topic we will move on to look at **Animals including Humans**. The children will be given the opportunity to identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system and explain the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. As well as learning about how the body works we will also be looking at the importance of diet, exercise and lifestyle and the effects that these can have on our bodies and how they function. To conclude the topic we will look at how the nutrients and water is transported through both human and animal bodies, to keep us functioning properly.



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## Geography

This term, the children will be linking their geography, science and English topic work by studying *rainforests*, where a lot of the book *Kensuke's Kingdom* is set.

Firstly, children will be identifying tropical rainforest areas on a world map, and locating the **Equator** and the **Tropics of Cancer** and **Capricorn**. They will then watch DVDs of rainforest areas in order to identify and describe rainforest features such as **climate and humidity, seasons, vegetation and eco systems**

Next, the children will learn about the characteristics of the **four layers** of the rainforests: the emergent layer, the canopy, the understorey and the forest floor. They will find out about the vegetation, insects, birds and animals which live in each layer, and how they depend on one another. They will research and write about different **rainforest animals**, with a focus on **orang-utans** which feature in *Kensuke's Kingdom*.

Children will also learn about the ways rainforests are **useful to humans**, for instance by providing oxygen, and products such as food,

shampoo and medicines. They will learn how rainforest biomes are under threat due to **deforestation**.

Later in the term, children will focus on the features of the **Amazon** rainforest in **South America**. They will locate the **River Amazon** and the country of **Brazil** on a map, and research the way of life in Brazil.

You can help your child improve their geographical knowledge and understanding by looking at different types of maps, and discussing how to read them and how to use the map key. You can discuss any tropical areas you may have visited yourselves, and watch internet clips of rainforest regions and animals together.



## Computing

In our computing work this term, we will be looking at using Google Earth and the Internet to research work based around our topic 'Rainforests'.

In using Google Earth, we will be linking this to literacy and our text 'Kensuke Kingdom'. We will be plotting the journey of the family in the book, as they undertake their around the world trip.

In the second half of the term we will be developing key skills, linked to maths and spag.



## Art

This term the children will be working with Mr. Jerry to create pictures of the rainforest, which will link with their geography and science work, as well as their English work on *Kensuke's Kingdom*.

They will be using stencilling techniques and collage to create a green border of lush rainforest plants which will frame their work. They will then draw and paint rainforest animals such as toucans and parrots, brightly coloured frogs and snakes, and orang-utans, which they will then cut and stick onto their pictures. Displays of rainforest pictures will be up outside the classrooms and on the stair-cases.



