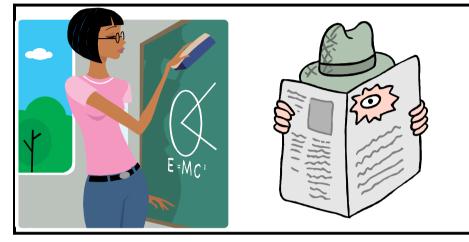


CURRICULUM NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY Issued Termly Spring Year 6 January – April 2018



# 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  $\div$ , 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.

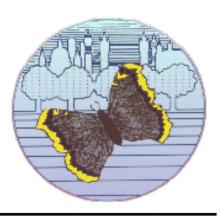
# Science

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.





# 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.

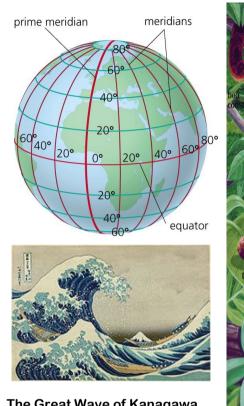
The children will use the book as a springboard to writing long, extended pieces of fiction. There will be opportunities for dramatic, descriptive writing, writing in role as different characters, diary entries and letter writing. The book will also be used as a stimulus for **non– fiction**, for example 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.

# OUR FOUNDATION



The Great Wave of Kanagawa, Hokusai's most famous print

### 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 **defor**estation.

Animals of the Rainforest

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 *Kensukes'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 staircases.



# SUBJECT NEWS

# Citizenship

Our PHSE work this term will focus around Justice. This links in with work we carried out last term in RE. The children will be considering what is fair and unfair and how we can work together and take the opinions and views of others into consideration. The children will be looking at the rights of a child, together with considering the rights and roles of others in both the community and the wider world. They will also be looking at he idea of British Values and what it means to be a good citizen. There will be lots of discussion work as well as debates to give the children the chance to voice their thoughts as well as listen to the opinions of others.

# R.E.

Our first topic this term is Jesus the Bread of Life. In this topic we will be learning about the importance of faith and how the Israelites placed all their faith in Moses and God to liberate them from the tyranny of Egyptian slavery. The children will also be exploring the significance of the many religious objects used during the Mass and creating a mass booklet for Year 3 and 4 to use. During this time we will also visit Sacred Heart Church to learn about the significance of the holy objects used in Mass and the significance of the vestments colours. We will also learn about how God's love feeds us, which relates to us receiving the Body and Blood of Christ when we receive Communion.

Our second topic will be Jesus the Son of God. We will be exploring the miracles which led people to believe that Jesus was the Son of God and what this means to us. As we explore the events leading up to his death, the children will reflect on Jesus' actions during Holy Week and discuss the impact this has on us. We will also consider the

importance of Jesus' Death and **Resurrection and reflect on how** Jesus' sacrifices changed our lives.



# A A Music A A

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The children will be continuing to work with a specialist teacher from the Southwark Music Service in their **Physical** weekly music lessons. In these sessions, they will walk the pulse in compound time and follow hand signs to DRMFSLT and Doh. Also, they will learn 3 new songs, some with staff notation. Children will also be taught to improvise vocally using DRMFSLT and Doh in compound and simple time. They will also be introduced to Grade 1 ABRSM theory. They will be introduce to and understand staff notation, treble and bass clefs and names of notes in the spaces and lines. As well as this, they will play simple songs from staff notation on glocks and chime bars. Finally, they will listen to a variety of Western **Classical Music from different time** periods.

Homework will consist of the 100 word challenge and the five sentence challenge. In addition, it is very important that children learn and practise their weekly spellings in preparation for the test in May. Please help your child by looking over their work with them and assisting editing. Alongside the homework set ,children should also be regularly working through their SATs practise books if they have purchased these from the school. Also, the children will complete set tasks on Spag.com and My Maths. This work is accessed online. Please check to ensure your children have completed these.

# Education

This term we will be focusing on Netball, hockey, athletics and Tag rugby in our games lessons.

We will be looking at building up the children's skills in these areas and will be entering a variety of competitions linked to these games.

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♣ Please note:
The correct PE kit must be worn 🔆
🕻 at all times. 🔹
$\hat{\star}$ This consists of a plain white $\hat{\star}$
T-shirt and plain navy blue shorts
or P.E. skirt. A plain navy blue
★ tracksuit may be worn for ★
outdoor games during winter.
$\hat{\star}$ Please ensure that your child $\hat{\star}$
$\star$ also wears trainers or plimsolls, $\star$
$\frac{2}{3}$ which are the correct size!
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