

Year 2 Autumn 1

The Rainforest

BIG QUESTION...

What makes a rainforest a rainforest and how can we look after them?



Are you ready for a ramble through the rainforest? Through this topic, we will be exploring the depths of the rainforest floor to the top of the canopy layer to find out about rainforest animal habitats and the reasons for rainforest deforestation in many continents of the world. Make sure you pack your backpacks and a hooded jacket as in this adventure, you could get wet!



In this topic, you will learn...

Reading We really value continuing to have dedicated story time throughout Year 2, often twice a day. We have a wide range of enriching, diverse texts which are shared across the year group, where the teachers discuss key themes and vocabulary with the children whilst also developing their likes and opinions. In addition, we ensure there is a high focus on developing reading for pleasure with lots of opportunity for independent reading in the classrooms. In phonics, we will be revising sounds from Year 1 to ensure any gaps in learning are covered. We will be continuing to introduce new sounds alongside this in our daily phonics lessons at the beginning of each day. We continue to use the Read Write Inc resources for phonics but follow the progression of the Letters and Sounds scheme.

How you can help at home:

- Please support your child with practising the sounds often. You can find the correct pronunciation of the sounds [here](#).
- Practise reading high frequency words at speed to develop quick recognition and fluency. Perhaps time your child to provide them with a challenge of beating their previous score.
- Listen to your child read as often as possible. Little and often is key to embed familiarisation with high frequency words, practise in reading unfamiliar words and creating positive reading behaviours.
- Your child's book changing days are Tuesday and Friday. They can choose one or two books on these days.
- Please continue to read wonderful picture books to your child, modelling reading habits, discussing vocabulary and themes with them, whilst having fun 😊

Writing Our writing focus is to say and write a group of sentences in order which make sense. Children will be learning to spell high frequency words accurately and including these in their independent writing. We will be teaching and recapping on grammar aspects of writing from Year 1 this half term and ensuring the children are familiar with adjectives and verbs. We will be reminding the children of pre-cursive script from Year 1 and encouraging the children to join letters. This will further support with embedding spelling patterns. To support with stamina of writing, we will ensure that the children write every day, whether it be a sentence in our dedicated phonics lessons, a teacher led task or creative writing in which the children can write about anything they wish 📝

How you can help at home:

- Practise 5 word simple dictated sentences with high frequency words- encouraging your child to remember the sentence and use their sound knowledge to write the words. Little and often. Remind your child about using a capital letter and the importance of using a full stop. If your child is struggling to remember the sentence then you could use counters, buttons, pasta shapes to represent each word.
- Encourage and support your child with practising to join their letters. An example showing the letter joins that we teach at school will be shared with you shortly.
- Continue to practise writing lower case and upper case letters and discuss when they are used.
- Practise writing high frequency words in lots of different formats, crayons, with biros, paint, building the words with lego, typing them etc.

In this topic, you will learn...

Mathematics The children's learning will focus on number this half term. Initially looking at place value, adding one more/less and 10 more/less and partitioning 2-digit numbers into tens and ones. The children will be using this knowledge to practise adding and subtracting using resources and jottings to support their understanding.

How you can help at home:

- Place value is a key element to your child's understanding of maths. Please continue to practise identifying tens and ones within a number ie the number 23 has 2 tens and 3 ones. Use objects to make the numbers, for example a bundle of 10 sticks tied together and 3 sticks on their own represent the number 13.
- Practise counting up and down in 2's, 5's and 10's. As a challenge count up and down in 10's from any given 2-digit number.
- Continue to practise quick recall of number bonds to 10 and then how this links with number bonds within 100.
- Practise telling the time, focusing on o'clock, as often as possible. To challenge your child ask them what the time would be in 2 hours for example.

Science Children will be exploring habitats this term. Initially exploring and comparing the differences between things that are alive, were once alive and were never alive. We will then explore what a habitat is, the suitability of different habitats and which animals live in them and why.

How you can help at home:

- Notice and discuss objects that are alive or not. Particularly stretching learning through identifying things that used to be alive. Discuss any processes that come with that.
- Why is the rainforest habitat suitable for some animals and plants? Discuss the difference with Bushy park and the rainforest.

Art and Design Children will practise using drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination. This half term the children will be learning about the art work of Henry Rousseau and using it to help them create artwork of the Rainforest.

How you can help at home:

- Practise mixing primary colours together. Encourage your child to see how many different shades of one colour they can create.
- Create a rainforest collage picture.
- Sketch objects in the home or in the garden park. Use different resources- biros, pencils, crayons.

Design and technology The children will cover all the skills of designing and planning, making and evaluating within the project of making a meal for Jungle trekkers using ingredients that they can forage in the rainforest.

How you can help at home:

- Discuss which foods can be foraged in different habitats, linking with temperature and environment.
- Remind your child about the safety of foraging, and that of course only grown-ups who know what they are looking for can do this safely.
- Have a go at making a simple salad dish at home using leaves (lettuce) and seeds and berries perhaps. Take photos of the stages of making.

In this topic, you will learn...

Computing Children will focus on keeping safe and linking this to using computers. They will learn to name the key parts of a laptop computer and will learn to turn on, log on and switch off the computers safely. They will be taught to save a typed document into a folder and later open these saved files.

How you can help at home:

- Can your child safely log in to your computer at home?
- Discuss the safety rules for using the internet. Why are these important?

Geography The children will be learning to identify oceans and continents on a world map including noticing the line of the equator. This learning will be linked to our science learning about habitats and exploring suitable habitats around the world. The children will be developing their map skills through exploring children's atlases. Through looking at aerial photos and maps we will begin to explore the idea of deforestation with the children and observing changes in the size of our rainforests.

How you can help at home:

- Look at a world map together and find the oceans and continents of the world. Are there ways that you can remember the names?
- Think of fun facts together that your child could ask family and friends about oceans/continents/countries of the world.
- Locate on a map where your child's class animal lives.
- Discuss deforestation with your child and the changing landscapes. Talk about how this affects animal's habitats. What can be done about it? What choices can we make?

Music Children will listen to and identify what they like about a piece of music. They will be learning the differences between pulse, rhythm and pitch.

How you can help at home:

- Listen to different genres of music at home and discuss which genre is your favourite? Why? Please encourage your child to come to school and share music that they have listened to and like with their class teacher.
- Practise hearing, feeling and clapping to the rhythm of different styles of music?

P.S.H.E We cover social and emotional learning every day at school in Year 2 discussing worries, effective communication and emotions in a supportive class team. We also teach a specific PSHE topic each week in line with the Jigsaw scheme of learning. The children will learn about what makes a good role model, discuss rights and responsibilities within a class and school team as well as discuss their hopes and fears for the year.

How you can help at home:

- Picture books are an extremely effective way to engage with your child's emotions. It has been a strange year and now more than ever it is fundamental for us to discuss our emotions.
Books that you may find useful to encourage talk and opening up;
 - The Invisible String by Patrice Karst
 - Silly Billy by Anthony Browne
 - Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival

In this topic, you will learn...

Physical Education Indoor PE focus on travelling movements, balancing, stability and taking off and landing safely on our large apparatus equipment. Our outdoor PE sessions will focus ball skills, including rolling, kicking, jumping, throwing, catching, bouncing and dribbling.

How you can help at home:

- Keep active every day. Consider different ways of travelling to school – can you walk/cycle or scoot?
- Can you practise your throwing and catching skills using a bean bag? Discuss how to show someone that you are ready to catch an object.

Practise passing a ball with feet, developing stopping and having control of the ball.

Religious Education The children will learn about the signs and symbols of everyday life, the use of artefacts and symbolic religious behaviour. We will explore the symbols of 6 faiths. Children will also express their own experiences and feelings, recognising what is important in their own lives.

How you can help at home:

- Notice and discuss what signs and symbols that we see in every-day life and what they mean. Discuss what signs and symbols we see in Religions and what they mean.

ALZ The ALZ or Active Learning Zone is a separate area to the classrooms run by a dedicated member of staff, six children from each class access the provision each session. Children are able to explore their learning in an active and practical manner and are set challenges and tasks which extend their learning and problem-solving skills. The teacher can use these opportunities to observe learning and make assessments.

TOP 5 WORDS to know by the end of this topic:



endangered

deforestation

canopy

equator

habitat

Useful websites to enhance learning:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

<https://www.ictgames.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQgizwwvgNk>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-4-games.html>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Great books you could read:

Where the forest meets the sea by Jeannie Baker

The flight of Mr Flinch by Thomas Baas

Neon Leon by Jane Clarke and Britta Teckentrup

Errol's Garden by Gillian Hibbs

My Grandma and me by Mina Javaherbin

Nimesh the adventurer by Ranjit Singh and Mehrdokht Amini

There's a tiger in the garden by Lizzy Stewart

Parrot's don't live in the city! By Lucy Reynolds and Jenna Herman

Meesha makes friends by Tom Percival

Little goose's Autumn by Elli Woollard and Briony May Smith

Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann

Slowly, slowly, slowly said the sloth by Eric Carle

If all the World were.. by Joseph Coelho and Allison Copoys

What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting our Planet by Jess French