

Oak Curricular Letter

Summer 1 2023 – Amazon Adventure

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back everybody. I hope you all managed to have a relaxing and peaceful Easter break. I was really impressed with some of the homework completed last half term; the children really enjoyed proudly sharing what they had done with one another. They have settled back into the routines of school brilliantly and I couldn't be prouder for how they have started this summer term. They were incredibly excited to be greeted by a rainforest, as they arrived on Monday morning. Children in both Acorn and Oak Class will be learning alongside one another in this inspiring cross curriculum unit – Amazon Adventure.

We certainly have some amazing adventures planned for the children over the coming weeks and this curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. All the children will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. Our half termly topic is a Geography driver called 'Amazon Adventure' and many of our subjects will relate to this. As with the start of all our topics, we discuss it with the children to find out what they already know and what they want to find out. This will form the basis of our weekly planning so that we can try to plan from the children's interests. If you have anything that you think may be of interest to our topic, then please let us know.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily. We aim to read with children several times a week (this will be with a member of staff) and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

Toast is still available daily at 20p. If you would prefer your child to bring his/her own snack to school, please keep in mind that we are a healthy school and it should be a piece of fruit or veg.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice and school policy is water in line with Change for Life initiatives. All PE kit and school uniform must be **labelled**, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child has never been more crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school, will have an exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,

Mrs Antonella Greenhalgh

Head of School

Days to Remember

Monday

New spellings issued
(on Seesaw)

Year 6 SATS Booster

Tuesday

PE

Board Games After
School

Wednesday

Mrs Harrison teaching
am

Thursday

Year 3-6 Ukulele

Performing Arts After
School

Friday

Spelling and Times
Table test (Y3-6)
PE
Rounders After school
club

TOPIC

Our topic driver this half term is, '**Amazon Adventure**' driven by our Geography lessons.

In Geography, the focus question is '**Would my life be different if I lived in the Amazon?**' The children will discover key information about world rainforests; find out where in the world they are, what their climate, topography and flora and fauna are like. Understand the four main layers of a rainforest. Find out about the plants that grow in the different layers and how they are adapted to live there. Explore the life of tribal families who live in the rainforest (Kayapo of the Amazon) and compare the way they live to their own family life

In Science, we will be answering the question '**Can I grow a garden centre in my wardrobe?**' This 'Plants' unit will teach your child everything they need to know about plants. They will learn the names of different parts of plants, and the jobs they do. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate what plants need to grow well, and will present their findings. Furthermore, they will have chance to predict what will happen in an exciting investigation into the transportation of water within plants. They will work in a hands-on way to identify the parts of a flower, and will explore the different stages of the life cycle of a flowering plant. The children will also explore reproduction in different plants, including different methods of pollination and asexual reproduction.

In Art the children will investigate '**Can I use Maths in my artwork?**' based upon the artist Beatriz Milhazes. The children will experiment and create a piece of art focusing on the geometric and arabesque shapes found in South American art. Combining new skills with colourful, vibrant compositions they will manipulate and digitize their piece.

Please take some time to talk to your children about the topics, read books and stories, watch programmes and think of some questions they can explore in class.

MATHS

All children should continue to practise their times tables on Timestable Rockstars and the weekly times table for the test every Friday.

Year 3 will begin by completing the unit on perimeter and shape. They will complete **fractions**-recognising unit and non-unit fractions, tenths, fractions of an amount, equivalence, compare and order, add and subtract. **Time**- converting time, telling the time, digital time, finding and comparing durations.

Year 4/5 will begin by completing their unit on **Decimals and Percentages** – Understanding percentages as fractions and decimals, multiplying and dividing 10, 100 and 1000 and Adding and Subtracting within 1. They will then move onto a **Decimals/Money unit** – Ordering, Estimating, Adding and Subtracting money and decimals. Finally, they will complete a unit on **Time** – Hours, minutes and seconds, Years, months, weeks and days, Analogue to digital - 12 hour and 24 hour and Timetables.

Year 6 will complete their unit on **Ratio** – Using and calculating scale factors. They will then move onto additional SATS preparation support, focusing on **Perimeter, Area and Volume** – Area of a triangle, parallelogram and volume of a cuboid. Following this they will look at **Statistics** – Using line graphs to solve problems, Pie charts and finding the mean. Before finally completing a few lessons on **Properties of shape** – Calculating angles.

LITERACY

Writing

In English, we will begin with a cross curricular and cross genre unit based on the book 'There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom' by James Sellick– ***Can we persuade a local supermarket to stop selling Nutella?*** The children will begin by reading 'There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom' and become familiar with the main characters and the impact of deforestation for palm oil is having on rainforests. They will carry out research on orang-utans, creating their own mini fact files. The children will look at a variety of persuasive texts and their features, in readiness for their writing. The children will complete a modelled write entitled - *Can we persuade a local supermarket to stop selling Nutella?* before completing an independent write based on the book 'The Vanishing Rainforest' by Richard Platt - ***Can we persuade people to support rainforest conservation across the world?*** The grammar will be focused on using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause. Alongside this we will be supporting Year 6 in their Grammar revision, in readiness for their SATS.

We will then complete a short poetry unit - ***Can I produce a rainforest canopy with my words?*** The children will write a poem, with structure, based upon deforestation.

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules and I will upload the weekly spelling patterns on Seesaw, using the 'Spelling Shed' resources.

Reading

The children in Oak Class will take part in Guided Reading each week. The focus book for Guided Reading this half term '**Journey to the River Sea**' by **Eva Ibbotson** - It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in this highly colourful, joyous adventure. During this time, they will complete a range of reading activities responding to reading and reading for enjoyment. In Guided Reading, children have the same text as their group which they read independently and to the adult. We then discuss the text and work on a reading objective – VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summary).

As well as Guided Reading sessions, the children have opportunity to read their home reader to an adult. Every child has been given a school reading book, which continues the whole school system for colour bands.

As a Junior, your child has the responsibility to change their own book when finished or when they are ready for a change.

Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. They should focus on reading for meaning – predicting what will happen in the story and why and also thinking about the character's feelings. Naturally, the focus changes and you are no longer working on building up fluency and expression but looking at prediction, deduction and inference. Questions such as 'What do you think . . . will do next?' 'What could happen here?' 'Why is . . . behaving like that?' will help children to develop their higher order reading skills.

Please could you continue to sign and comment in the reading journal – it really helps! Please make sure your child has their reading journal in school every day.

Homework

Homework will continue to be sent out half termly - each half term you will receive a home learning menu. As explained on the menu, you must complete the maths, reading and writing activities, at least one science activity and any two options from the topic section. The homework menu will allow you to be creative and imaginative in what you decide to produce.

The hand in date for the activities this half term will be:

Monday, 22nd May

Homework share with the other children, will take place on

Friday, 26th May

Many parents ask if they can help with activities and projects such as this and the answer is most definitely a resounding 'yes'! There is nothing more motivating for a child than an interested adult. The Homework menu has been sent home.

Oak Summer 1 – 29 days

Amazon Adventure - Geography & Science Driver

English	Maths White Rose Maths			Science	Geography
<p><u>Can we persuade a local supermarket to stop selling Nutella?</u></p> <p>Novel as a theme - The Vanishing Rainforest Persuasion</p> <p><u>Can I produce a rainforest canopy with my words?</u></p> <p>Poems with a structure</p>	<p>Year 3</p> <p>Fractions</p> <p>Time</p>	<p>Year 4/5</p> <p>Decimals/Percentages</p> <p>Money</p>	<p>Year 6</p> <p>SATS Prep</p>	<p><u>Can you open a garden centre in your wardrobe?</u></p> <p>Topic: Plants</p>	<p><u>Would my life be different if I lived in the Amazon?</u></p> <p>Topic: South America</p>
Art	RE Discovery RE	Music Lancashire Music Service		French Rigalo	Computing
<p><u>Can I use Maths in my artwork?</u></p> <p>Topic: South American Art (Beatriz Milhazes)</p>	<p><u>What is the best way for a Buddhist to lead a good life?</u></p> <p>Topic: Beliefs and Practices Religion: Buddhism</p>	<p>Ukulele Curriculum Content – Charanga</p>		<p><u>Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire en vacances?</u></p> <p>Topic: En vacances: Holiday conversations, activities</p>	<p><u>Should I use Excel to write a letter?</u></p> <p>Topic: Choose the most suitable applications and devices for the purposes of communication.</p>
		<p>PE (Chorley SSP)</p>		<p>PSHE Corman Life Education</p>	
		<p><u>Why shouldn't I be stumped by cricket?</u></p> <p>Topic: Striking & Fielding - Cricket</p>		<p><u>Am I fantastic?</u></p> <p>Topic: Being my best</p>	