



Acorn Curricular Letter

Summer 1 2023-Amazon Adventure

Welcome back everybody. I hope you all managed to have a relaxing and peaceful Easter break. The children 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.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. The children in Acorn Class will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year R, 1 and 2. Our topic is called 'Amazon Adventure' and many of our activities will relate to this. We will be learning about South American Art and focusing on Beatriz Milhazes. We will be taking a closer look at the mysteries of a tropical rainforests from animal inhabitants, to the unique climate found in the tropics. We will then compare Haigh Hall Woodland Park with the Amazon rainforest and begin to explore some of the conservation issues surrounding the destruction of these habitats. Just in case we didn't have enough chocolate over Easter we will be investigating to see if we can make chocolate from a plant as part of our scientific exploration.

SATs

The **Year 2** children will be sitting their SATs this term. They will take place from mid-May and end as we break up for half term. We will space them out as much as possible for the children and will ensure that they do not feel under any pressure at all.

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 and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice or flavoured water and school policy is water, in line with Change for Life initiatives.

Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can cleaned easily. Please try to ensure lunches are a healthy balance of choices.

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 Karen Barclay
Teacher

Monday

New spellings issued
(on Seesaw)

Year 6 SATS Booster

Tuesday

PE

Board Games After
School

Wednesday

Mrs Harrison teaching
am

Thursday

Performing Arts After
School

Friday

Spelling test
PE
Rounders After school
club

TOPIC

This half term our topic is 'Amazon Adventure'. The children will be immersed in everything rainforest themed, from English texts to Geography and everything in between! In Geography our question is – 'How would my life be different if I lived in Brazil?' The unit will investigate the mysteries of tropical rainforests, from its animal inhabitants, to the unique climate found in the tropics. They will then compare Haigh Hall Woodland Park with the Amazon rainforest, and begin to explore some of the conservation issues surrounding the destruction of rainforest habitats.

In Science our question is – 'Can I get chocolate from a plant?' The children will identify the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.

Using maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping they will locate countries and describe features studied in the context of rainforests. They will research foods that can be found in the rainforest and design and make a tasty treat!

The role play area this half term is throughout the school and is Rainforest themed; other continuous provision activities will include a post office to send all of their writing to the Amazon, making our own rain forest out of junk materials and animal themed craft activities. Outside the children will enjoy newly created soft sand area together with the maths, music, water, construction and reading areas.

As with the start of all our topics, we will 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. 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.

LITERACY

Reading

The children in Acorn Class will take part in Guided Reading three times a week. In Guided Reading in Year 2, 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). In Year 1, the books are closely linked to their phonics learning.

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 well as a phonics book.

Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. From Year 2, they should focus on reading for meaning, as well as decoding – 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.

LITERACY

Writing

We will begin our literacy lessons exploring the rainforest through a lovely story called The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry. Children will imagine what it is like in the rainforest and develop their vocabulary to describe what they might see. They will be learning all about, adverbs, suffixes and noun phrases during this literacy unit and using them to describe all the amazing sights in the rainforest. At home you could ask your child to describe the things you see around them using adverbs and noun phrases. Whilst we are reading this story, we will discuss our opinions and talk about what the main character should do. We will then ask '**How can my story persuade the school to look after our world?**' The children will write their own story about protecting our planet taking inspiration from The Great Kapok Tree and applying it to Tunley wood.

We will complete the half term with a recount by writing a postcard and the children describing their adventures in Brazil.

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.

MATHS

All children should continue to practise their number work on Numbots.

Year 1 will begin the half term with a unit on **Multiplication and Division** – making equal groups, arrays and doubles, grouping and sharing, finding and making a half and a quarter, unit and non-unit fractions. They will then move onto unit on **Position and Direction** - describing turns and describing position

Year 2 will begin the half unit on **Fractions** – Recognising a quarter and a third. **Shape** identifying the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They will complete the half term beginning a unit on **Time** am, pm and the 24 hour clock.

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 but can choose any two options from the other choices from across the curriculum. 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, 23rd May

