



P.P.S. Elm Class

May 2022
Summer Term

The Amazon Basin

Dear Parents,

With the change of season, we are looking forward to seizing the opportunity to take our learning outside and make the most of any warm weather (fingers crossed).

Our first **geography** unit of work will build on children's knowledge of rivers and South America, focusing specifically on river basins. Children will learn about the significance of the Amazon biome and the effect rivers have on their surrounding areas. Children will discover what vegetation belts are and how the UK compares to regions in South America in terms of natural resources and food production.

Taking our learning outdoors will continue to be a priority this term. Elm Class will be teaming up with Willow Class to maintain the allotments, look after the school farm and grow their own produce. As part of Film, Farm, Fork children will build on their knowledge of seasonality and cook dishes using what they harvest from the school grounds.

In **science**, children will be learning about forces such as gravity, friction and air resistance. They will learn about how levers, pulleys and gears can be used to create mechanical advantage and plan investigations to observe how changing variables can alter outcomes. Children will use diagrams to communicate their understanding of forces and continue to develop their knowledge of fair testing.

P.E. will be taught twice a week on *Wednesday and Friday*. Children will be developing the skills required to play tennis, striking and fielding games and athletics. Throughout our P.E. lessons children are taught the importance of physical activity as part of a healthy life-style. They also will apply the evaluative skills they have learnt in other units to a range of skills and sports.

Computing lessons will develop children's ability to navigate the online world safely. Children will be making promotional videos for a school e-safety campaign. As part of our Computer Aided Design (C.A.D.) day, children will explore programmes to design products. Some of these will be printed using a 3D printer. We are expecting some experts in this field to visit our school to help us turn the designs into reality.

Children will also improve their ability to use Microsoft Office for a range of purposes and develop their film making and editing as part of Film, Farm, Fork.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.



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'Get Creative'

As part of our 'Get Creative' topic, children will be learning about street **art**, including the works of Banksy. They will create their own stencil design and have a go at some graffiti art of their own (closely supervised!).

Design and Technology lessons will be incorporated as part of Film, Farm, Fork, during which children will prepare and cook a range of dishes making use of seasonal ingredients. Later in the term, children will create a textile project of their own choice. As part of this, they will research, design and evaluate their product and learn basic stitching techniques.

R.E. lessons in the first half term, will explore the Gospel texts and consider how they affect Christians' beliefs and practices. Later in the term, children's learning will be guided by the following question: What does the Qur'an reveal to Muslims about Allah and his guidance?

In **French** lessons, children will learn the names of the planets in French and relate them to the days of the week. They will then describe them using adjectives and making them agree with the noun according to number and gender.

Later in the term, children learn to describe seasons using a poem and the music from Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons'. They also learn how to describe the weather.

As part of the **P.S.H.E.** Curriculum, children will link their scientific learning about phases of human life with the physical and mental changes associated with adolescence. They will also consider how choices about their use of information technology affects their well-being.

Homework will continue to be set weekly. Arguably, the most important part of this homework is the need for children to read at home at least five days out of seven. The overall effect of regular reading on children's education cannot be understated as it has a knock-on effect on many other subjects in the curriculum. Please ensure your child completes this in addition to the online maths and spellings, and the maths and reading comprehension sheet.

Of course, **English** and **Maths** will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above. *Spellings* will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Timetables will be practised in school regularly and tested on Thursdays. Spellings will be tested on a Monday. If you would like any additional information about this term's learning, please do not hesitate to ask us.

If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk to me please feel free to make an appointment at the office.

Many thanks,

Rob Neary (Class Teacher)

Miss Lenharth (Teaching Assistant)