

Four Lanes Community Junior School



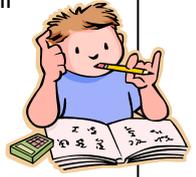
Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1 2016

6S Mrs Sale (Year Leader) and Mrs Kaiser, 6H Mr Hearfield, 6R Mr Roberts
LSAs Mrs Filbey, Dr Sutton and Mrs Mill

First of all, a warm Happy New Year to all; we hope you have had a good break over Christmas and are all ready and raring for a great 2016!

We warmly welcome Mrs Mill to our Year 6 team. She will be supporting in classrooms in the afternoon. As we draw closer to the SATs, Secondary Transfer and Calshot, we have lots to achieve, prove and improve.

We are looking forward to inviting you to our learning outcome at the end of term where we will be asking you to join a debate about the changes occurring in the Tropical Rainforest Areas.



Main topics and learning this term:

Geography – Where has all the Chocolate Gone?

Science – Evolution and Inheritance

We are starting a really exciting topic, looking at what is happening with the environment in the Tropical Rainforests of the world. The children will be involved in a Topic Launch day next Monday to spark their interest where they will take part in various workshops exploring the rainforests themselves – from the comfort of our classrooms! They will learn about how the forests developed, the variety of plant and creature species found therein, how products from the Tropical Rainforests are used to provide food, technology, medicines and building materials and how this impacts the survival of the environment.

They will learn how mankind's use of resources, including land, is damaging the rainforest regions right across the world and leading to a world-wide shortage of chocolate! Through investigating the lives of the people who live in the regions, they will explore how different farming methods and the demands of business have altered long-existing ways of life.

Using Rainforests as a basis, we will be note taking from a variety of non-fiction texts, deciding whether the author's point of view is balanced or biased. The children will then apply these ideas to draft and present various texts on the topic, experimenting with how they reveal their opinion. As a further challenge, they will write a factual text with no opinion at all – something children always find rather difficult. Afterwards we will focus on persuasive texts using their thoughts about the effects of deforestation. We will also be working with the children on their 500 word story challenge; part of which will support their homework project.

Linking with the Geography, in Science the children will be learning about how different species have adapted to environmental change. The emphasis will be on the concept of survival and how the best adapted variation of a species is more likely to live long enough to reproduce. They will consider the role of predators and camouflage and how to explain why species change over time.

In both Maths and English, we will be spending time helping the children understand how to answer questions in timed situations. From experience we know that this makes a difference to their confidence and esteem levels in the lead-up to the SATs in May and that confidence is the crucial factor in success. We will also be running extra groups for children who need further support in order to meet their potential. As you would expect, we will continue to cover Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division in all contexts because this is the basis of so much of the mathematics that the children will need and we will keep the regular focus on multiplication and division tables up to 12×12 – keeping up the practice is key!

We are looking forward to an exciting topic outcome in the last week of term on the afternoon of Wednesday the 23rd March, details of which will follow – watch this space!

How you can support your child's learning at home:

- Reading remains fundamental to your child's further learning, so please listen to your child on a regular basis regardless of their ability. If your child has Bug Club, please help them use it.
- Constant revision of multiplication and division facts will always be useful; Mymaths and Woodlands Maths Zone are great sites. Please record any activities that your child undertakes in their Home-link Book and ensure these are in school each day.
- Discuss your child's learning with them – they might remember something they've done during the day, you never know!

Homework:

Reading, Times Tables and Spellings.
This is set weekly on a Friday, for return on the following Wednesday.
This half term Maths and English will alternate:
Maths – varied questions to aid use of all skills
Writing – Spelling and Grammar activities and 500 words Story competition

A few reminders:

- PE will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays this term. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school on these days. However it is always useful for their kit to be in everyday of the week, just in case.
- Computing is timetabled for a Thursday and our School Library time is on a Monday afternoon.
- We have some very kind volunteers that hear your children read but we always welcome additional help. If you have an hour or two to spare then please contact your child's teacher to offer your services - it would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you for your continued support!

****A special reminder of the SATs meeting (already notified on the newsletter) held on Thursday 14th January at 6:30pm****