

Four Lanes Community Junior School



Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1 2017

6SB Mrs Sale (Year Leader) Mrs Becousse, 6H Mr Hearfield, 6R Mr Roberts
LSAs Mrs Cummins and Dr Sutton

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 2017!

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 on Thursday 6th April when 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 have been involved in a Topic Launch day this week to spark their interest, where they took part in various workshops exploring the rainforests from the comfort of our classrooms! They will go on to 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, a national competition run by Radio 2; 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 February, we have a trip to QMC's science department to help bring this to life.

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 to success. We will also be running extra groups for children who may benefit from further support. 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!

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. Your child has a Bug Club log in, please help them use it. They also have a grammar bug log in; with all the confusing terminology they need to understand this is a really useful resource!
- 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.

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 continues to 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 Wednesday 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!