



Four Lanes Community Junior School

Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 1 2019



6PR Mr Roberts (Year Leader) 6EB Mrs Becousse, 6BG Miss Green
LSA Mrs Nash

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 2019.
The children will be presenting their "Save the Rainforests" campaigns and inviting you to join them in preserving our Natural World.



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 already had a Topic Launch that looked at the recent Iceland advert, "There's an orang-utan in my bedroom" and that challenged them to decide what they will need to learn about the rainforests and about deploying facts in order to persuade you to make a change. 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.

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 to success. We will also be continuing to run 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.

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. We will continue to recognise and reward those who read most often.
- Use of Spelling Shed to increase accuracy and speed with spelling
- Constant revision of multiplication and division facts will always be useful.

Please record any activities that your child undertakes in their Home-link Book and ensure these are in school each day.

www.bugclub.co.uk and www.mymaths.co.uk provide the most useful support for home learning.

Homework:

Reading, Maths and Spellings.
Set on Friday, returned the next Wednesday

Maths and English will alternate with the project learning as this gives the children more time for the projects

Maths – varied questions to aid use of all skills
English – Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation revision

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.
- In preparation for the greater independence needed for Secondary School, we will not accept late or missed homework. Children who have not completed the set tasks (including the 10 practises on Spelling Shed, any bugclub or mymaths) will do this on a Wednesday lunchtime. If problems have arisen, please let us know by Monday so that we can invite them to Homework Club.

