



# The Curriculum

## English.

During our English lessons, Class 2 will initially be learning about animals that live in the rainforest. They will read and compare a selection of non-fiction books and gain confidence in finding information and making notes. They will then choose their favourite rainforest animal and write an informative and engaging non-chronological report about it to make into a Class 2 book or a rainforest display.

Next, the children will go onto reading and watching animal myths, which are fictional explanations of how animals acquired certain characteristics. Some



examples of these are the Tinga Tinga tales and stories about Anansi. We will use 'speed dating' to share our ideas and develop our ideas further with drama activities. The children will then write their own myth, based on the creature that featured in their non-chronological report. They will share their myths with Class 1.

We will have a daily spelling lesson to boost our ability to spell. Usually we will focus on a spelling rule or spelling pattern each week, e.g. adding -ed to regular verbs or making plurals of nouns. The weekly homework will include words that follow this pattern or rule.

We will also have regular guided reading sessions, during which the children partake in a rotation of activities. They will read as a group with Mrs Hooijmeijer, do a written task about their shared book and practise independent comprehension questions every week.

How you can help:

- Read with your child at least 3 times a week and ask questions about what they have read.
- Encourage your child to practise their spellings every day. This does not have to take long, but will help them to remember the spellings long term.
- Remind them to write great sentences with their spelling words, using their best handwriting.

### Maths

In maths, we will first spend time getting confident at using bigger numbers. We will practise presenting and partitioning numbers in different ways. We will then move onto addition and subtraction, developing efficient methods to calculate answers. We will also develop our reasoning skills to secure a greater understanding of mathematical concepts. The children will continue to progress from using concrete equipment to solve problems, to using pictures to help them and finally abstract written methods.

The children must continue to learn their times tables, moving on from their 3s, 4s and 8s (in Year 3), to their 6s, 7s and 9s. Our aim is for all children to be confident at all times tables to 12 by the end of Year 4.

How you can help:

- Practise counting in numbers, especially of the timetable your child is learning. A good program to help is 'Hit the Button' on Topmarks.
- Ask children to help with adding up shopping, adjusting recipes, telling the time, duration of events, etc.
- Practise telling the time as much as possible, both on an analogue and digital clock. Talk about how long things take and how many minutes until. . . .
- Let them do tasks on Mathletics.com. Each child has a login and can access activities that are adapted according to the maths topic and ability of the child.

### Science

In Science, we will be looking at habitats and classification of living things. This will be closely linked to our work on rainforests and forest schools. The children will learn what a habitat is and which animals live in the various habitats around the world, but more importantly, in the various habitats of the layers of the rainforest. They will use classification keys to find out the identity of creatures found in our local area and design their own key to sort a selection of rainforest animals.

As always, we will include as much practical work as possible.

Teaching the children through investigations how to work scientifically by making tests fair and reporting their findings in a clear way.

## Art

With the rainforest theme as our inspiration, we will work in mixed media in both two and three dimensions to create a class installation. Creativity of ideas, accuracy of technique and quality of work will be our guidelines.

## Computing

During this topic, we will try our hands at developing typing skills and use 'Publisher' to display the information about our rainforest creatures.

We will also use the internet to research our topic work and use Mathematics to improve our maths skills.

Please, also encourage your child to develop keyboard skills by doing some 'Dancemat Typing', which is available online.

## French

Through songs and role-play, we will be learning/revising how to greet others and introduce ourselves. We will practise how to ask and respond to the question, "How are you?"

We will learn /revise numbers to twenty and use these to say how old we are.

## Geography

Our topic this half term is Rainforests. We will use maps to locate the rainforests around the world, look at the animals and plants that live there, find out about products that we use that come from the rainforest, learn about the people that live there and finally about the complicated issue that surround deforestation. These activities will be closely linked to our English, Science and Philosophy for Children (P4C) work.

## Music

Building self-confidence will be the principal aim of our vocal work so the children will be encouraged to sing alone and in pairs as well as in ensemble.

With rhythm as our focus, we will listen to how different rhythms have been used to create different effects and will begin to develop discussion skills by contributing ideas about what has been heard. The children will also work individually and together to explore different rhythmic patterns

## Personal, Social and Health Education

Our topic in PSHE will be teamwork and resilience. We will explore what we should do to keep trying if things get hard through P4C and circle time activities.

## PE

We will continue to use the REAL PE scheme in KS2, working on our cognitive skills and tactical thinking in games, as well as developing a greater awareness of achieving our own personal best. We will be using a number of small-sided team games to develop teamwork and a sense of winning and losing, and how best to handle these emotions in sporting activities.

## Religious Education

In Religious Education, we will explore the concept of rituals in our study of the Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot. The children will listen to the story of the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. They will make a sukkah and will think about how a Jewish child may feel during the festival and will share any rituals in their own life that are important to them.

## Useful Websites

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years>

[http://www.dancemattypingguide.com/dance-mat-typing/level1\\_stagel.html](http://www.dancemattypingguide.com/dance-mat-typing/level1_stagel.html)