

## Literacy

This half term the children will be looking at features of the rainforest, expanding their own knowledge and skill in order to write their informative report. The children will be writing non-chronological reports based on their findings as well as looking at writing and skill.

Following this, the class will be exploring the natural world with a focus on the Amazon rainforest. Through group planning, our Winter Garden trip will form the basis of our descriptive writing and a persuasive piece.

The key skills we will be covering to transform the children's writing will be:-

Similes and Metaphors

Structure and Organisation of information using paragraphs, images and captions, and headings.

Use of present tense and plurals

Imperative verbs

Presenting factual information and use of formal language

## R.E.

Our topic this half term will be Giving at Lent/Easter. The children will be celebrating growth to new life.

We will know and understand the giving or refusing to give; appreciating the cost of giving; as well as a better understanding of Lent, a time of giving in preparation for the celebration of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Pupils will acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above.



YEAR 5 — SPRING 2

Rainforest? Dry  
forest?

Miss D Bellwood

## Reading

The children will be taught reading within basic skills lessons as well as daily focussed reading sessions.

They will be taught the skills of comprehension, inference, text structure and organisation, language and themes using a variety of text styles and genres.

The children are encouraged to continue this at home, looking at a wide range of genres.

## Maths

This half term the children will be learning how to find equivalents of decimals, fractions and percentages.

We will be revisiting percentage and fractions of quantity. We will also be looking at how to order and compare fractions; recognise equivalent fractions and the way in which these can be applied outside the classroom.

We will be perfecting our skills in basic calculation looking at all addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Children will be focussing on different vocabulary linked to their topics through speaking and listening opportunities, word problem calculation and mastery task focus.

## Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

We will be following the Year 5 curriculum objectives with daily interactive fast paced basic skills activities.

Spelling has been identified as a particular weakness across the class; as a result spelling is becoming part of our taught literacy and basic skills lessons.

## History/ Geography

This half term we will be looking at the Mayans, an ancient Mexican civilisation, who developed the first known number and calendar system. We will be focusing on time sequence and the possible geological explanation for the civilisation's disappearance.

## Art / DT

Whilst a handful of the children's homework tasks will have a Design Technology focus, the children will be paying homage to Henri Rousseau, a French abstract jungle artist who, like ourselves, never visited the jungle. His pieces are entirely from his imagination and often contain hidden characters and messages.

Following this the children will be looking at wool weaving, a Mayan tradition which still lives on today in Mexico.

Throughout the year the children will be building a sketchbook of jottings and experimenting with different mediums as well as learning to analyse and evaluate their successes, strengths and weaknesses. Children are shown different techniques and are given opportunity to practice as part of their portfolio.



YEAR 5 —SPRING 2

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## Educational visits and outdoor learning

As the children are reading about the rainforest, a setting abstract to most, we will be visiting Sunderland Winter Gardens as a stimulus for the children's descriptive writing.

## Useful websites

<http://www.maths-games.org/>

<http://www.mathematicshed.com/miscellaneous.html>

## Computing

We are continuing to improve our knowledge of basic Microsoft Office skills, Microsoft PowerPoint in particular, using this as a stimulus for Speaking and listening opportunities. As part of our **Science** topic we will be conducting pupil led experiments on healthy eating and diet, as well as looking at animal and human life cycles.

## PSHCE

Getting on and falling out

The children will look at -

Knowing that relationships are all different therefore different behaviours are appropriate; not demanding more than they are willing to give; sometimes difference is a barrier to friendship.

Seeing a situation through another's perspective, how it feels to be excluded.

Effective leadership qualities.

## Extra Curricular Opportunities

There are a variety of extra curricular activities for children at St Bernadette's. Please click here to see an up to date list of what is currently being offered.

## P.E.

The children will be taking part in a whole school Volleyball focus this half term in indoor P.E.

Whilst outdoor with Phil children will be working on improving their ball skills.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that the children take part in P.E. despite weather conditions and that kits are to remain in school until the half term break.

## Homework

Homework will usually be handed out on Fridays. Usually there will be a set amount so that children are able to do something each night. Reading, writing, school literature, or maths homework will always be linked to work we have covered in lesson time and will be designed to consolidate or extend learning. I will be available at lunch times and after school in the class room if the children require any additional help with this.