

Literacy

This half term our work will be focused on the Rainforest and will be linked to our theme of Justice. We will cover the following:

- Persuasion—children will use Talk For Writing techniques to create their persuasive letter about the injustices caused to the rainforest. We will focus on using the conventions of this theme (such as emotive language, rhetorical questions, conjunctions) and the typical organisational devices such as organising paragraphs around a theme. We will also look at extending sentences using a range of conjunctions, look at using a range of sentence types for effect. In line with our British Values Curriculum, we will debate the issue of deforestation.



YEAR 4 - Spring 2

Spelling

The teaching of the weekly spelling focus will be covered in our Basic Skills lessons. The set spellings will also be sent home on a Friday to be tested the following Friday. We will begin by looking at some statutory words for year 4 according to the national curriculum.

Science

This half term will be completing a biology unit about Plants. Children will identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers. They will explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant. We will also investigate the way in which water is transported within plants and explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. Pupils will be working scientifically by comparing the effect of different factors on plant growth and observing changes over time.

Numeracy

We will begin this term by completing our work on measures. This will include converting between different units of measurement, estimating, comparing and calculating measurements. We will then move on to statistics, using our Rainforest topic as inspiration. Children will interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs. They will learn how to solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in bar charts, pictograms, tables and other graphs.

We will continue to develop our reasoning and problem solving skills within all areas.

Grammar and Punctuation

SPAG will be covered in our basic skills lessons. We will continually increase the legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting. We will also be continuing to learn the skills of using a Dictionary. In addition, we will continue to focus on the use of conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause. We will also re-address using and punctuating fronted adverbials. We will then look at using and punctuating direct speech.

History / Geography

We will be looking at rainforests; identifying their position and significance in relation to the Equator. We will be describing key aspects of human and physical geography including climate zones and vegetation. This works closely with our Gospel Value of Justice as we discuss and debate the effects and consequences of the 'disappearing rainforest'.

Reading

There are daily reading activities in class in which we focus upon discussing and defining new vocabulary. They will deduce and infer information about the text, discussing and asking questions to improve their understanding. They will predict what might happen from details stated and implied. Children will need to check that the text makes sense, discussing and explaining the meaning of words in context.

R.E.

This half term we will complete our Listening and Sharing topic. Children will use religious vocabulary to **describe** the actions and symbols used during the celebration of the Eucharist, **describe** some ways in which Christians share the Good News of Jesus and finally give reasons for specific actions and words used during the celebration of the Eucharist.

Music

We will be continuing with our trumpet lessons and working towards our Silver Award.

The children will all have to complete tasks including recognising musical patterns and developing their music reading skills. Children also have to continue to apply what they have learned at Bronze Award level.



P.E.

In outdoor PE on a Monday, the children will continue to apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending through tag rugby with our sports coach, Phil. For our indoor PE lessons we will be focussing on circuit training. Children will learn about how they can monitor their fitness levels over time.

Computing

To tie in with our E-Safety Week, we will begin this half term with a Digital Literacy and E-Safety unit. Children will understand the importance and security of passwords. We will then explore the concept of the online community and how people connect online. After that, we will examine product websites and understand their purpose is to persuade people to buy a product. Finally, we will look at how to be respectful online, focusing on how to write respectful messages and effective emails.

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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.

PSHCE

We are covering the topic of 'Relationships' in PSHCE this half term. Our PSCE work will also be linked to our Justice topic and work will often be completed in our class floor book.

Homework

One piece of Maths or English homework will be sent home on a Friday to be returned the following Tuesday. Children will also receive times tables and spellings to learn for a test the following Friday.

Art/DT

We will continue our theme of rainforests as we sow and grow our own plants. We will be using a wide range of materials (with a focus on recycling) including textiles, which we will design, analyse and evaluate within context. The children will be making a fridge magnet and a cross stitch design).

Educational visits and outdoor learning

Further Educational visits are yet to be confirmed. Information will be passed on to parents/carers when all lower key stage two trips are organised.

Useful websites

English:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/

Rainforests

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/kids>

<http://kids.mongabay.com/>

Science:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zy66fg8>