

Rainforest Explorer

Year 4, Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 4 and to the Autumn Term. We hope you had a lovely, relaxing summer holiday. Our first topic of 'Rainforest Explorer' will use the fabulous new book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell as a stimulus. We will be covering a wide range of topics and our work will include exploring:

- Different world climate zones and vegetation belts, particularly tropical areas.
- The use of physical and political maps to look at continents, time zones and rainforests.
- The use of geographical vocabulary – longitude, latitude, Equator, tropics and hemispheres.
- How animals are adapted to their habitats and their position within food chains.
- The classification of animals/plants and features of living organisms.
- Our responsibility to look after the earth and its nature.
- Poetry, information texts and letter writing.
- How information is collected and presented in different ways, including organising paragraphs.

We will start the year by identifying and classifying organisms in our immediate school environment, before moving onto the rainforest. Our art work will be topic-related and will incorporate colour mixing, oil pastels and papier mâché. PE this term will comprise Dance and Tag Rugby, taking place on Wednesdays and Thursdays and both sessions will be taught by Mr Kiely. Our RE will look at a Judaism, specifically Jews' special relationship with God.

Year 4 Routines

- **Homework** will be handed out on a Friday and collected in each Thursday. It will normally relate to the term's topic and the children will continue to use their homework folders from Year 3.
- **Spelling booklets** will be due in each Wednesday and should be returned to your child by Friday. This allows any testing to take place early in the week.

- This year, both classes will be supported by Mrs Stanley who will be our LSA.
- Reading books and logs should be brought to school every day.
- We provide pencils, rubbers, sharpeners and pencil crayons, so no pencil cases will be needed.
- Children may bring in a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit or veg for playtime. Snacks and water bottles need to be kept separate from lunch boxes.
- For PE, a T-shirt, shorts, trainers and sweatshirt are needed, along with jogging trousers in colder weather. Long hair will need to be tied back and earrings taped.

Key dates

Monday 4th September- Welcome meeting for parents of Year 4 children at 4pm, in 4HR classroom. (We do prefer that children do not attend this meeting if possible.)

Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th October Parent Consultations

As always, we would love to have additional helpers. If you have any spare time please get in touch with your child's class teacher. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

David Hardwick and Helen Rutt