



Year 3
St. Clare

Spring Term 2023
Parent Information Pack

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a very happy Christmas and the children have all returned eager to learn. This term the class will become Rainforest Explorers. We will be finding out about South American rainforests and the Mayans as part of this.

English

In English we will be reading some Mayan Warrior poetry, Abuela's Weave, The Great Kapok Tree, The Chocolate Tree, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and some non-fiction books about the Mayans and Rainforest. These texts will all link in with our learning journey. We will be adapting and writing our own warrior poetry, retelling and adapting a Mayan traditional tale, creating a non-fiction leaflet and writing instructions and persuasively linking these with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Throughout all of this we will continue to develop key writing skills of editing and re-drafting work.

Thank you so much for your continued support with your child's reading - it really does make a difference! It continues to be important for the children to read aloud and discuss the story, or text, to show a good level of understanding and to be able to answer questions about what they are reading at home. They will also take part in weekly guided reading sessions to develop these skills.

Regular spelling activities and handwriting practice will also continue. Spellings will be tested on a Wednesday.

Maths

In mathematics this term, we shall be:

- Identifying, representing and comparing 3 digit numbers using place value.
- Adding and subtracting up to 3 digit numbers mentally and applying this to problem solving.
- Adding and subtracting numbers using up to 3 digits, using written methods and applying this to problem solving.
- Using multiplication and division facts to solve problems.
- Representing, comparing and ordering fractions of shapes and numbers.
- Adding and subtracting money.
- Measuring weight using grams and kilograms.
- Reading and writing the time on analogue clocks including using Roman numerals.
- Reading and interpreting bar charts, using scales.
- Recognising and drawing right angles in 2D shapes.

Religious Education (R.E)

Topics to be covered this term include Journeys, Listening and Sharing and Giving. You will receive a separate R.E. information pack giving details of these schemes of work.

Science

In Science, our first topic is Forces and Magnets. The children will be learning how forces affect the way things move and investigating how magnets work. They will compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet and identify some magnetic materials.

The second Science topic is Plants. The children will identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants. They will explore the requirements of plants for life and growth, and explore the life cycle of a plant.

Within both of these topics we will be carrying out investigations linked with the topic, making predictions, observations and evaluations from them.

Computing

In Computing, our next unit is 'Desktop publishing'. The children will become familiar with the terms 'text' and 'images' and understand that they can be used to communicate messages. They will use desktop publishing software and consider careful choices of font size, colour and type. The children will look at a range of page layouts thinking carefully about the purpose of these and evaluate how and why desktop publishing is used in the real world.

After half term, our Computing unit is 'Branching Databases' in which they will learn what a branching database is and how to create one. The children will use yes/no questions to gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects. To conclude the unit, they will create an identification tool using a branching database, which they will test by using it. They will also consider real-world applications for branching databases.

In addition, we will use ICT to link in with our topic work as we use online maps and atlases to locate different parts of Central and South America.

Geography and History

Our learning journey for this term is Rainforest Explorers where we will discover more about the Rainforest and the Mayans. We will be investigating who the Mayans were; how they lived and the achievement of the Mayans. We will also be looking at the discovery and production of chocolate and how this linked with the Mayans. In the Geography part of our topic we will be locating South America, the countries it contains and the Amazon rainforest on maps and using atlases. We will be considering the main physical features of the Amazon rainforest and comparing these to the Ashdown forest. We'll also have a trip to Wakehurst Place where we'll go on a rainforest trail and find out about some items which originate from rainforests. We will think about how South America has changed and use aerial photographs to make a comparisons between South America and the UK.

Physical Education (P.E.)

We will learn why warming up and cooling down are important and how physical activity affects our health. The children will work on improving their personal fitness through circuit type activities. They will also learn how to play netball, understanding the key rules and principles of the game. The class will develop their throwing, catching, attacking and defending skills in the game of netball but also considering how these skills can be applied to other invasion sports. Children will also be looking at basic gymnastic skills of rolls, twists and turns. They will be designing their own routine and learning to evaluate their own and others' performances.

Music

We will continue to follow the Music Express scheme this term. The children will explore different ways of notating pitch as they sing, read and compose music. They will develop their understanding of beat, metre and rhythm. They will also explore and compose their own music, which they will have the opportunity to perform to others in their class.

Spanish

We will be continuing to develop our Spanish speaking, listening and writing skills. We will be consolidating our numbers to 10, days of the week and months of the year. We will learn how to say individual letters of the alphabet. We will also be learning how to say 'I can...' and how to say different musical instruments.

Art and Design Technology

In Art the children will be looking at some of the work of Mario Gonzalez Chavajay. They will use his work to develop their knowledge of colour and make their own colour wheels. They will look at how Gonzalez Chavajay creates texture and tone when painting the rainforest and make their own nature painting in his style. We will then look at the work of Jeannie Baker and how she creates texture using collage. The children will evaluate her style and work before making their own collage nature picture.

In D.T. we will be designing, making and evaluating a Mayan mask using Modroc.

PSHE

In our second PSHE module 'Created to love others' the children will build on their understanding that we have been created out of love and for love. Within these PSHE lessons the children will learn strategies to develop healthy relationships and an understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

Homework

In line with the current school homework policy this will be set every Friday and due in the following Wednesday.

We do hope that this pack proves useful to you, if you would like any further information about topics we are covering in school, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Many thanks,

The Year 3 Team:

Mrs Britton
Mrs Wimpenny
Mrs Gregory
Mrs Marchant
Mrs Byrne