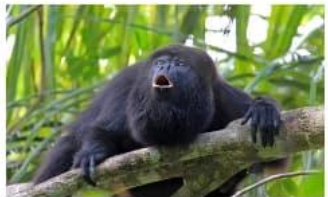


Blencathra Newsletter

Dear Blencathra Parents

Here is a summary of the Curriculum for
Blencathra for the Spring Term 2023

Our topic this term is
Rainforests



English

Fiction and Non-Fiction – 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry.

The book is based on a man that is exhausted from chopping down a great Kapok tree. As he sleeps from the exhaustion, the animals who live in the tree, please with him not to destroy their world. Children will be thinking about the perspectives of the man and the animals. We will be looking at settings and the children will be creating, writing, editing and redrafting their own setting. Following on from this, the children will be thinking about persuading the man now to chop the great Kapok tree down.

Grammar and Punctuation—We will be learning about comparative and superlative adjectives, speech marks, pronouns, adverbs, number adjectives, verbs, tenses, singular/plural and nouns.

Spelling—All children will have 3 spelling sessions a week in an appropriate group. They will have a spelling test on a Friday. We encourage the children to practise their spellings on Spelling Shed both in school and at home.

Art and D&T

Art Craft and Design: Fabric of Nature – All of this work will be based on the rainforest. Children will be exploring the use of their sketchbooks to replicate images and select colours to create a mood board. Children will be exploring confidently, the use of materials and tools to add colour. They will be looking at and understand the work of William Morris, using subject vocabulary to describe his work and style. Finally, they will be learning about the different methods for creating printed fabric in creative industries.

Electrical Systems: Electric Posters—Our D&T work will be linking to our Science during the second half of the term. Children will be thinking about 'information design' and will develop an understanding of its impact, consider what would happen if we had no signage, posters or written communication in public places of interest. Children will research and choose a specific Rainforest topic to base their initial poster ideas. Once they have designed their poster, they will assemble an electric poster to include a functional simple circuit with a bulb. Children will then evaluate their electric posters.

Computing

Presentation Information and Multimedia—Desktop Publishing—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 to edit and improve premade documents.

Data—Branching Databases – Children will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will use yes/no questions to gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects. Learners will create physical and on-screen branching databases.

Science

We will be continuing to develop our working Scientifically skills. We will be thinking about which enquiry method we are using, once we are more familiar with these, we will be beginning to think about our own lines of enquiry to answer questions.

States of matter—We will be comparing and grouping materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases, we will understand the properties of these. We will be observing that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C). We will also identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Electricity—We will be identifying common appliances that run on electricity. We will be able to construct a simple series electrical circuit, while doing this, we will be identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. We will be investigating and identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery. We will recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit. We will be able to recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

Maths

Number and calculations – Following the White Rose scheme of works, we will be learning about addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with formal written methods, money, temperature, fractions and decimals.

The children will also be continuing with their Big Maths weekly challenges.

Measure, area and fractions – We will be looking at units of measure when looking at length, we will be able to convert different units (mm, cm, m and km), compare and add and subtract lengths. We will then move on to looking at perimeter, by being able to measure, calculate perimeter, the Year 4 children will progress onto calculating the perimeter on rectilinear shapes. Following our perimeter work, we will look at comparing and measuring areas. During our fraction work, we will be looking at and counting in tenths, recognising and finding equivalent fractions.

RE

We will be looking at Gospel from the Understanding Christianity time line, and answering the question, "What kind of world did Jesus want?" We will learn about the calling of the first disciples and looking at Jesus' actions towards a leper might mean. We will also be studying the Passover, the four gospels and Judaism.

Music

We will be continuing with our instrumental lessons with Steve Burke, using whistles, boom whackers, glockenspiels, keyboards etc. We will also be practising our songs for Young Voices.

PE

Dance – We will be working with Kelly to create a dance based around our school vision to the music, 'We're all in this together' from High School Musical. We will perform our dance on stage at the UDance at the Sands Centre, Carlisle. During our lessons, we will be creating our own movement patterns to represent certain parts of our school vision. We will be working on our own, in pairs, small groups and as a whole class. There will be opportunities for us to compare our performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve our personal best.

Games – We will be learning various skills (movement, tactics & strategy, personal & social, leadership and healthy lifestyle) through the game of Quicksticks Hockey. We will also be taking part in some Action Ants events.

PSHE

We will be looking at allergies including, what an allergy is, what happens in the body when someone has an allergic reaction, what some common allergens are and how to give first aid to someone having an allergic reaction. We'll also look at dental hygiene; how to look after your teeth including the role of dentists, why teeth are important and the consequences of not looking after your teeth.

French

We will be learning about farm animals and pets, food and cutlery, school, classrooms, stationary, time and subjects. We continue to use our Salut interactive resource taking part in fun games, stories, singalongs and more!

Topic (History and Geography)

We will be discovering key information about world rainforests, finding out where in the world they are, what their climates are like. We will be finding out which plants and animals will be found in the rainforests, as well as the people that live there. This will lead us into learning about deforestation and climate change.

Uniform

Please come to school wearing the correct school uniform and have the correct PE kit in school everyday. It is also important the children have their hair tied back everyday. This is outlined on our school website: shap.cumbria.sch.uk

Homework

Homework encourages independence, self-organisation and is an opportunity to chat about learning at home. No homework should take longer than 30 minutes unless your child would like to do more.

Homework will be set using Microsoft Teams, this will be set on a Monday and is to be handed in via Teams on a Friday (if you are unsure of your child's log in details, please get in touch as soon as possible and we can get these to you).

Children will receive times tables, spelling and reading homework each week along with a mini topic project per half term. This project is to be completed over a number of weeks. It is on Teams and also on our class page on the website.

Worship

This half term, the themes of our Worship time will be: Friendship Week: Belonging, Going for Goals, Epiphany, Candlemas, St Valentines

Our Christian Value, will be: Peace (Living in Harmony).

Teams

Please remember to check Teams regularly as this is where all homework will be set and a lot of reminders for the children will be given.

Correspondence

If you would like to speak to either of us, please message us through Teams or email (vcapstick@shap.cumbria.sch.uk or ataylor@shap.cumbria.sch.uk) and we will get back to you.

What do I need to bring to school?

Everyday:

- Your reading pack
- A waterproof coat
- A water bottle
- A packed lunch (unless you are on school dinners)
- A fruit snack

Every other Monday, for Outdoor Learning with Gary:

- A pair of waterproof trousers
- A pair of wellies
- A hat
- A pair of gloves

