



Fleet Primary School

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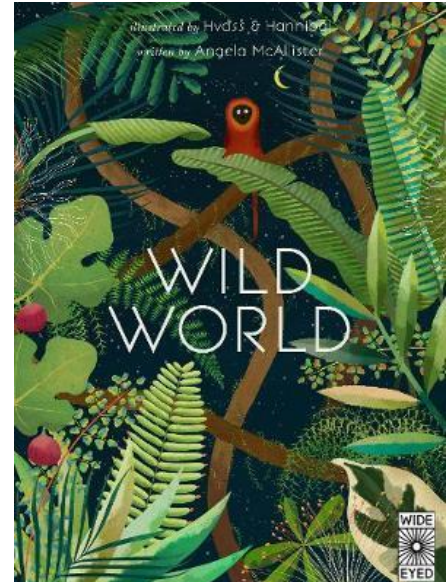
Year 4 Topic Letter – Summer Term

Spirit of the Amazon

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful Easter break. I'm excited to announce our summer term topic: Spirit of the Amazon! This will be a Geography topic, largely based around South America, with a focus on the Amazon River and Brazil.

In English we will start with a poetry unit using the book 'Wild World' as a starting point for the children to create their own free verse poems describing the rainforest. Our two other fiction key texts will be 'Jemmy Button' and 'The Great Kapok Tree'. For our non-fiction work, we'll be writing our own information books about rainforest animals and doing some persuasive writing around rainforest conservation.



In Geography we will be learning all about South America, starting with a general focus on countries, capital cities and flags and moving onto some more focused work around the Geography of Brazil and the Amazon River. In History we will be exploring the Incas, learning about who they were, what they wore, their beliefs and where they lived (focussing on Machu Picchu).

Science will continue to be taught by Ms Mulji again this term. We will start the term completing our unit on circuits and electricity. After half term we will be learning all about living things and their environments.

In RE we will be looking at Buddhism focussing on the story of Buddha and the eightfold path. In Art we will explore rainforest plants and animals using different techniques, including pastels, chalks and printing. We will also look at Henri Rousseau's 'Surprised!'. In DT, we will be trying some South American cooking and then writing some recipes and instructions, as well as papier mache work and macrame. In Maths the children will continue to follow the National Curriculum and will continue to develop skills around place

value, written and mental methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, handling data and statistics, time and measures and fractions.

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in! I'd like us to do some papier mache work this term, so please do bring in any newspapers. At the end of the summer term I plan on using shoe boxes for a project so please start saving them for us now!

PE this term will be on **Mondays and Tuesdays**. Coach Keeley will teach the class on Mondays and Arsenal coaches will teach the children on Tuesdays. The children will need to make sure they have shorts/ leggings/ tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt and trainers for Wednesday, although it is often easier for PE kit to be left at school for the duration of the half term. Please make a note of the PE day – last term lots of children were forgetting PE kits and it would be a shame for them to miss out. As the weather gets nicer, PE may take place outside so it's especially important for the children to have correct footwear. *It would be really helpful if clothes and PE kit bags are labelled!*

The children will be continuing trumpet and trombone lessons with Rod on **Thursday** so please remind them to bring their instrument on those days. It's essential your child has a labelled water bottle for school to allow them to get drinks during the day, especially as the weather gets warmer.

We have the same team supporting Year 4. Emma will be in class all day, Jo and Temian during the morning and Shae during the afternoons. Ms Mulji continues to teach on Thursdays, whilst Ms Wall teaches on Friday mornings.

Important dates for Year 4 this term:

Tuesday 3rd May: Morris Dance Workshop

Friday 13th May: Fun Run on the Heath

Tuesday 17th May: Trip to London Zoo

Thursday 19th May: Trip to London Central Mosque

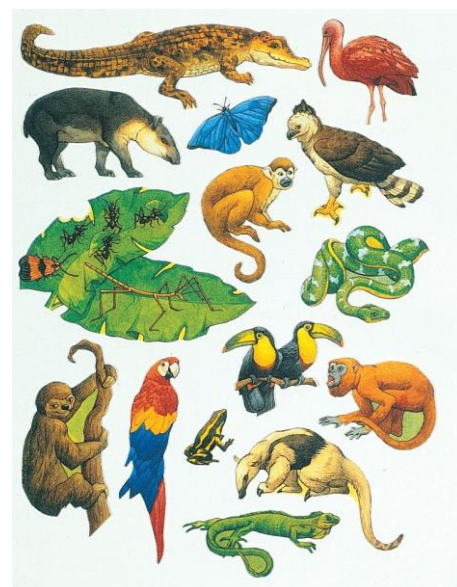
Thursday 9th June: Year 4 Class Tea

Friday 10th June: Year 4 Class Assembly

Monday 20th June: Year 4 hosting Cluster Music Festival @ Fleet

Tuesday 28th June: Trip to Kew Gardens

Wednesday 29th June: Trip to Hampstead Heath for outdoor activities



I will send trip letters out with more details nearer the time. I will be putting a sign-up sheet outside Y4 for you to come and help on our trips. Thank you to all the parents who helped us with our trips and visits last term, it's much appreciated! If you are able, please make sure your child brings in their voluntary contribution of **£2** for each trip and support our class tea by baking, buying or contributing to the class reps. Class teas are really important since they help to fund all the wonderful trips and visitors which we have.

Home learning is continuing as it was last term. Seesaw and Mathletics are updated with new work to complete **every week**, on a **Friday**. Please ensure your child brings both their reading

books with them to school **daily**. Thank you for the support you've given the home learning so far, it really helps your child make progress.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or to grab me for an informal chat after school. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,
Lynley Benbetka

Ways you can help your child at home:

Maths

1) Please continue to help your child with their times tables. The children should be fluent in all their times table and division facts by the time they leave Year 4. If you would like any suggestions for how you can help your child learn their times tables, please feel free to speak to me at any time. The expectation is that children will use **Times Table Rockstars** 3 days per week, for 15 minutes.

2) Rounding – children should be able to round 4-digit numbers to the nearest ten, hundred and thousand in Year 4 but a lot of children still need support doing this.

3) Please continue to support your child learning how to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks. By the end of Year 4, children should be familiar with reading all analogue and digital times and converting between the two, as well as reading 24 hour times.

As always, Mathletics is a great place for your children to practise their Maths skills and covers all of the Y4 curriculum. Please encourage them to play at home here <http://uk.mathletics.com/>.

Literacy

1) We will continue to teach the spelling curriculum on a roughly two week cycle, alongside weekly spelling tests of words the children are currently misspelling in class. These lists are on Seesaw. Please support your child with learning these words. The website <https://spellingframe.co.uk/> links well with the curriculum and can be a good place for your child to practise their spelling words.

Your child should also be confident spelling the first hundred high frequency words (a list of these can be found online at <http://www.highfrequencywords.org/first-100-high-frequency-word-lists.html> or I can print you one if needed. If you notice your child misspelling any of these, then please practise them. Additionally, if you notice any common words in your child's home learning which they are frequently misspelling, please feel free to practise these also.

2) Please continue to ensure that your child is reading **every night** for at least 15 minutes. In Year 4, it's not always necessary for your child to read aloud to you but encouraging discussions around the books they are reading and asking them questions about the texts is a good way to engage with their reading. Children should be recording on Seesaw how much and what they're reading daily. Feel free to add any additional comments if you wish. Children are also given new follow up tasks **weekly** which follow their reading session with me in class. Please remind your child to complete these! The information supplied is a very useful record for us about your child's reading so your support is much appreciated.

3) Encourage writing wherever possible. Emails/ letters, diaries, postcards, reviews and comics are all fun ideas.