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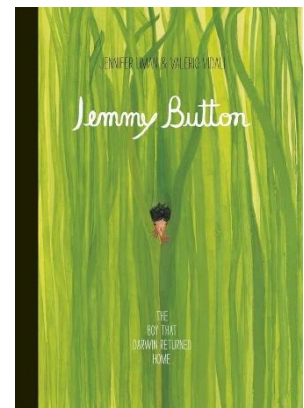
Year 4: Summer Term 2026

Under the Canopy

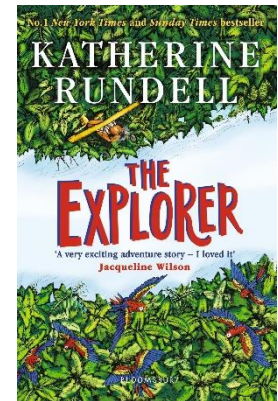
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful Easter break. I'm excited to announce our summer term topic: Under the Canopy! This is a Geography topic, largely based around South America, with a focus on the Amazon Rainforest.

In English, we will begin by reading the book 'Jemmy Button' by Alix Barzelay. This book is set on the island of Tierra del Fuego and follows the journey of a young boy who travels to Victorian England. This book will inspire a range of fiction and non-fiction writing, including poems, a persuasive letter and a narrative. Next, we will read 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry and write a persuasive piece around rainforest conservation. After half term, a trip to London Zoo will allow the children to learn about rainforest animals and help them to write a fact file on their chosen animal. Finally, we will complete a unit on the book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, which I will read to the children throughout the term.



In Geography, we will learn all about South America, starting with a general focus on countries, capital cities and flags and moving on to some more focused work around the Amazon Rainforest. We will visit Kew Gardens to find out more about rainforest plants and complete some botanical sketches.



In History, we will explore the Inca Empire, learning about who the Incas were, what they wore, their beliefs and where they lived. This will inspire various art and DT lessons.

Science will continue to be taught by Tammy this term. The children will complete two units which will link in with our topic – Living things and their habitats and Animals, including humans.

In RE, we will study Buddhism, focusing on the story of the Buddha and the Eightfold Path.

In Art, we will explore rainforest plants and animals using different techniques, including pastels, chalks and paint. In DT, we will make Inca-inspired masks and our own poison dart frogs out of felt. We will try some South American recipes in cooking.

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. We will also work on decimals, money, time, shape, statistics and position and direction.

PE this term will be on **Mondays**. The children will need to make sure they are wearing trainers and comfortable clothes. As the weather gets nicer, PE may take place outside, so it's especially important for the children to have correct footwear.

The children will continue trumpet and trombone lessons with Rod on **Thursdays** so please remind them to bring in their instrument on those days.

It's essential that your child has a labelled water bottle for school to allow them to get drinks during the day, especially as the weather gets warmer.

Important dates for Year 4 this term:

28th April: Kew Gardens

14th May: CLC

19th May: Keats Library

12th June: Class Assembly

16th June: London Zoo

23rd June: Keats Library

14th July: Keats Library

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 that we have.

Home learning is continuing as it was last term. Google Classroom and Mathletics are updated with new work to complete **every week** on a **Friday**. Please ensure your child brings both their reading book and reading diary with them to school **daily**. Thank you for the support you've given with home learning so far, it really helps your child make progress.

The national times table test is fast approaching, so please ensure that your child is practising their times tables **every day** so that they are confident with their times tables up to 12 x 12.

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in!

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,
Asha Sale