

Class 4

The Bliss Charity School



Term 5



Welcome Back!

We hope you had a fantastic Easter break and you are ready for the new term. For our first summer term topic, Class 4 will be exploring the exotic world of rainforests. We are especially looking forward to a visit from *The Rainforest Roadshow* next week. Read on to find out more about some of the things we will be enjoying throughout Term 5.

Mrs. Sharp



Term 5 Topic: *Rainforests*



To start the topic, children experienced a 'guided tour' of the rainforest using lots of amazing vocabulary to describe what they could see, hear, smell, taste and feel. We now can't wait for *The Rainforest Roadshow* to visit so that we can learn from people with first-hand experience of the wonders of the rainforest. They will be spending a day with us and bringing a range of amazing artefacts and live invertebrates!

Literacy this term will begin with the class reading 'The Great Kapok Tree'. Using this text, children will engage in a range of drama activities to explore the wonderful world of the Amazon rainforest. Working in role as characters from the story, children will learn about some important issues facing the rainforests today. They will then use this tale to inspire their own dilemma stories set in the rainforest. Later in the term, children will be enjoying some rainforest poetry, including the poem 'I am a Parrot' by Grace Nichols. They will be learning to use a range of poetic devices before creating their own performance poems.

In mathematics, children will start by using their measurement skills to create accurate representations of different rainforest plants. Will the classroom be able to house the world's largest leaf? They will then use their understanding of place value to solve some rainforest problems. Children will also develop their data handling skills as they read and interpret climate data using bar charts, pictograms and line graphs, and will have the opportunity to test out their reasoning and problem-solving skills in a range of fun rainforest activities.

In topic lessons, children will begin by locating the main rainforests of the world. They will identify the features of a rainforest and race in teams to match-up some key rainforest vocabulary with the correct definitions. They will learn about the different layers of the rainforest and the living things found at each level; they will find out how creatures have adapted to life in each forest layer. Towards the end of the topic, children will learn about food resources available in the rainforest for the creatures and people who live there.



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In science, children will use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. They will learn about the seven characteristics of living things and then sort living things in a number of ways. They will observe living things in the school grounds and their locality and then compare these to the flora and fauna of rainforests around the world.

Art this term will focus on artists' use of colour and developing children's blending and shading techniques, as they create their own animals and plants of the rainforests. In DT, children will be designing and making their own 'rain sticks' which we they will then be using to create a rainforest soundscape in music.

Class 4 will also be busy updating their presentation skills by creating PowerPoints about rainforests.

Other subjects ...

PE – Physical Skills. This term, the children will be taking part in a variety of activities to develop and improve their physicality. This includes speed, agility and ball skills.

Music – Children will be making their own rainforest Soundscapes and taking part in NMPAT first access music (ukulele) sessions.

Helping your child at home ...

We have many pupils that have now achieved their bronze and silver reading award. Please keep up the super reading at home and don't forget to update reading journals. These should be handed in every **Monday**.

The new spelling lists for Term 5 have now been sent home. The test dates for each set of spellings is shown at the top of the table.

Homework will continue to be set weekly; this will now be coming home on a Thursday rather than a Friday, but is still to be completed by the following Wednesday.

Pupils are expected to practise their times tables regularly. Your child will be told which times table they are currently working on, but if you are unsure please ask! It is also helpful to re-visit times tables learnt previously to keep these up to speed. Lots of stickers have already been earned this year – keep up the good work!

Class 4 information ...

Rainforest Roadshow on Monday 25th April: Class 4 are looking forward to welcoming the Rainforest Roadshow back to Bliss. They will be bringing the magic of the tropical rainforest into school with their collection of exotic rainforest invertebrates and genuine tribal artefacts.

If you have any questions about the term, please feel free to contact the Class 4 team.