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Together we *learn*, *grow* and *dream*


Half-Termly Curriculum Snapshot

Magpies Y5 - Spring 1

Our Topic for this Half-Term: What would happen if the rainforests disappeared?

Key Learning Highlights

Here's a glimpse into the exciting learning journey your child will embark on this half-term, covering all aspects of the National Curriculum:

 English:

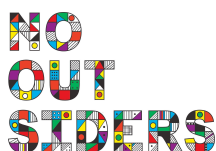
- What we're reading: Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker and The Explorer by Katherine Rundell
- What we're writing: Setting descriptions, descriptions of animals, persuasive pieces and final outcome of writing a zoo information board for a rainforest exhibit.
- Key skills: using specific and technical vocabulary, using devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs, selecting language to persuade, proposing changes to vocabulary to improve consistency.

 Mathematics:

- Main topics: Multiplication and division
- Topics covered: Multiply a 4 digit number by a 2 digit number; divide a 4 digit number by a 1 digit and to divide with remainders.

 Science:

- Main topics: Living things and their habitats - classification
- Key questions: How are living things classified into broad groups? How are certain living things similar and different? Who is Carl Linnaeus?
- Engaging Activities: Discussions on how certain animals are classified including the duck billed platypus.
- Prior Learning Connection: Use of classification keys (Y4)



Geography: What would happen if the rainforests disappeared?

- Big Ideas: Understanding what a rainforest is and where key rainforests of the world are located, knowing the layers of the rainforest and living things that are found there, discuss the threats rainforests face including deforestation.
- Engaging Activities: Artwork looking at rainforest animals, discussions over the impact of deforestation and linking with our work on the global goals.
- Prior Learning Connection: Continents and Oceans (KS1)

Art & Design:

- Focus: Sculpture
- Key Skills: Plan and design a sculpture; use tools and materials to add shape, texture and pattern; develop cutting and joining skills

Music:

- Focus: A New Year Carol by Benjamin Britten (Classical/Urban Gospel)
- Key Skills: Listen and appraise songs by Benjamin Britten, perform the song.

Physical Education (PE):

Focus: Dodgeball

- Key Skills: know when to attack and when to defend, listen actively and respect the opinion of others, play within rules and resolve disputes appropriately without adult intervention.

Computing:

- Focus: Variables in games
- Key Skills: understand what a variable is and relate to real-world examples, create a simulation of a scoreboard, experiment with variables and modify them, create a game in Scratch.

Religious Education (RE):

- Focus: How are the values of community and equality shown through the Sikh way of life?
- Key Skills: To understand who Guru Nanak is and how he became a leader and teacher. To understand the relevance of Guru Granth Sahib. To explore how Sikhs show equality in their day to day lives.

Relationships & Health Education (RHE) & PSHE: HeartSmart & No Outsiders

- Focus: This half-term, we will be continuing our work with HeartSmart, focusing on 'Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy!'
- Key Learning: knowing that there are ways that we are different and ways that we are the same, how to be a good listener, how generations before have overcome challenges that we benefit from today, there are benefits and dangers of social

media.

- We will also integrate our No Outsiders programme, promoting inclusivity, celebrating diversity, and ensuring every child feels valued and belongs within our school family.
Key No Outsiders text: The girls-Lauren Ace and Jenny Løvlie
Key No Outsiders learning: To explore friendship

Supporting Learning at Home



Geography & English: The Rainforest Explorer

Topic: What would happen if the rainforests disappeared?

- **The Layered Diorama:** Create a "Rainforest in a Box" using a shoebox. Your child should clearly define the four layers: **Emergent, Canopy, Understorey, and Forest Floor**.
 - *English Link:* For each layer, write a "Setting Description" using expanded noun phrases (e.g., "The suffocating, humid air of the forest floor...") and technical vocabulary like *biodiversity*, *transpiration*, or *ecosystem*.
- **Zoo Information Board:** Imagine a new "Amazonia" exhibit is opening at a local zoo. Design an information board. Use **persuasive language** to explain why visitors should support rainforest conservation.
 - *Skill Check:* Ensure they use cohesive devices like "Consequently," "In addition to," and "Furthermore" to link their paragraphs.



Mathematics: Master of Operations

Focus: Large Number Multiplication and Division

- **Expedition Calculating:** Give your child a "budget" for a rainforest expedition (e.g., £5,000). Ask them to calculate the cost of buying 14 high-quality tents at £325 each. This practices 4×2 digit multiplication.
- **The "Bus Stop" Expert:** Practice dividing 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers by sharing "explorer rations." If you have 4,525 calories to last 5 days, how many calories can you eat per day?



Science: The Linnaean System

Focus: Classification

- **Pantry Classification:** Choose 10 items from the kitchen (e.g., an apple, a tin of beans, a bag of pasta). Ask your child to create a **classification key** using "Yes/No" questions to identify each item.

- **The Platypus Project:** Research why the Duck-Billed Platypus was so hard to classify. Your child could create a "Fact File" explaining its mammalian and avian (bird-like) features, linking back to **Carl Linnaeus's** methods.
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Art & Computing: Digital & Physical Creation

Focus: Sculpture and Variables

- **Textured Sculptures:** Using salt dough, clay, or even recycled cardboard, create a sculpture of a rainforest animal. Focus on **texture**: How can you use a fork to make "fur"? How can you use a coin to create "scales"?
 - **Real-World Variables:** In computing, they are learning about variables. At home, discuss "variables" in everyday life. For example:
 - *Variable Name:* "Hunger Level"
 - *Value:* Decreases when you eat; increases when you play outside.
 - *Activity:* If they use **Scratch**, challenge them to create a simple game where a "Rainforest Score" increases every time they click on a piece of plastic waste to "clean" the forest.
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PSHE & RHE: HeartSmart & Connections

Focus: 'Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy!'

- **The Active Listener:** Practice the "Good Listener" skill. Ask your child to interview an older relative about a challenge they overcame. They must summarize what they heard without interrupting, showing they value the other person's experience.
- **Digital Balance:** Discuss the "Benefits and Dangers of Social Media." Create a "Family Tech Agreement" that balances "Selfie Time" (individual screen time) with "Us Time" (collaborative activities).

Websites to help

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> A range of games covering the curriculum

Complete weekly assignments on Spelling Shed and revise previous words

Continue with Times Tables Rockstars to ensure fluency of key facts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Mrs Hamman

Y5 Teacher

Wincham Community Primary School