



## Half-Termly Curriculum Snapshot

Dragonflies Y6 - 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: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
- Topics covered: Multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000; multiply and divide decimals by integers, convert fractions to percentages, recognise equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages, calculate a percentage of an amount.

#### 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), differences in life cycles (Y5)



 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), Biomes (Y5)

 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): **WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY**

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 and 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: Are Humanist and Christian ideas about science conflicting or complementary?
- Key Skills: Comparing the views of the afterlife across a selection of religious worldviews, explore why Humanists feel that science is a process which allows claims to be tested, discuss if Christian spiritual experience can co-exist alongside scientific principles.

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

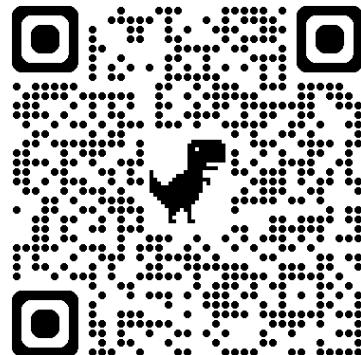
- Focus: This half-term, we will be continuing our work with HeartSmart, focusing on 'Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy!'
- Key Learning: knowing that there are ways that we are different and ways that we are the same, how to be a good listener, how generations before have overcome challenges that we benefit 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: You're so amazing! By James and Lucy Catchpole
- Key No Outsiders learning: To consider attitudes towards disability. Knowing what a stereotype is and how they can be unfair, negative or destructive.

## Supporting Learning at Home

### Writing

We are now in a crucial phase of Year 6, and as always, we are working closely with your children to ensure they are the most confident, capable writers they can be. We truly believe that our partnership with you at home makes the biggest difference.

To help you support your child, we have put together a special [\*\*Writing Support Pack\*\*](#) containing key resources and simple activities. Our goal is to make revision feel manageable, supportive, and stress-free!



There is a combination of information to support parents (We know how daunting some of these grammar terms can be!) and direct activities for your child to complete - some Y6 parents are already modelling enthusiasm for writing by working alongside their child!

***We are also holding a separate Writing Parents' Information Session on Thursday 15th of January at 4pm to help you to support your child.***

## Mathematics

- Continue with use of Times Tables Rockstars to ensure quick recall of multiplication and division facts.
- [Maths Bot arithmetic](#) A good website that helps generate Maths questions that are at the expected standard.

**Focus:** Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages (FDP)

- **The Supermarket Scientist:** While shopping, look for "10% off" or "25% off" signs. Ask your child to calculate the saving and the new price.
- **The Decimal Race:** Use a deck of cards to create decimal numbers (e.g., a 4 and a 5 becomes 0.45). Practice multiplying and dividing these by 10, 100, and 1,000 by "sliding" the digits across a place value grid.
- **Equivalence Memory Game:** Create a set of "Snap" cards where one card is a fraction, one is a decimal, and one is a percentage.

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## Geography

**Topic:** What would happen if the rainforests disappeared?

- **The Travel Persuader:** Ask your child to create a travel brochure for the Amazon. They must use **cohesive devices** (like "Furthermore," "In contrast," or "Consequently") to persuade someone to visit before the environment changes.
- **The 3D Rainforest:** Create a "Rainforest in a Box" using a shoebox to represent the four layers (Emergent, Canopy, Understorey, and Forest Floor).
  - *Challenge:* Can they label which animals live in which layer and explain why?

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## Science: Classification & Linnaeus

**Focus:** Living things and their habitats

- **The "Curious Creature" Key:** Draw a mythical creature (like a mix between a parrot and a jaguar). Then, create a **Key** to help someone "discover" what it is based on its physical characteristics.
- **The Linnaeus Fact-File:** Research **Carl Linnaeus**. Why is he the "Father of Taxonomy"? Discuss why the Duck-Billed Platypus confused scientists for so long—does it fit the "standard" rules of classification?

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## Creative & Tech: Sculpture & Variables

**Focus:** Art and Computing

- **Nature Sculptors:** Inspired by the rainforest theme, use recycled materials or salt dough to create a sculpture of a tropical animal. Focus on adding **texture** (scales, fur, or feathers) using household tools like forks or toothpicks.
- **Scratch Scoreboard:** If you have access to a computer, use [Scratch \(free\)](#). Challenge your child to create a simple "Catch the Fruit" game where they must create a **Variable** called "Score" that increases by 1 every time the sprite touches the fruit.

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## Wellbeing & Society: RE, PSHE

**Focus:** Inclusivity and Philosophy

- **The Big Debate (RE):** Discuss the question: "*Can you believe in the Big Bang and also be a person of faith?*" This mirrors their RE work on Humanist vs. Christian perspectives.
- **"Too Much Selfie" (PSHE):** Set a "No Screen Hour" this weekend. Use the time to practice "active listening" (one of their key skills) by interviewing a family member about a challenge they overcame when they were younger.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you again for your continued support.

Warmly,

Mr Garner-Laing

Y6 Teacher

Wincham Community Primary School