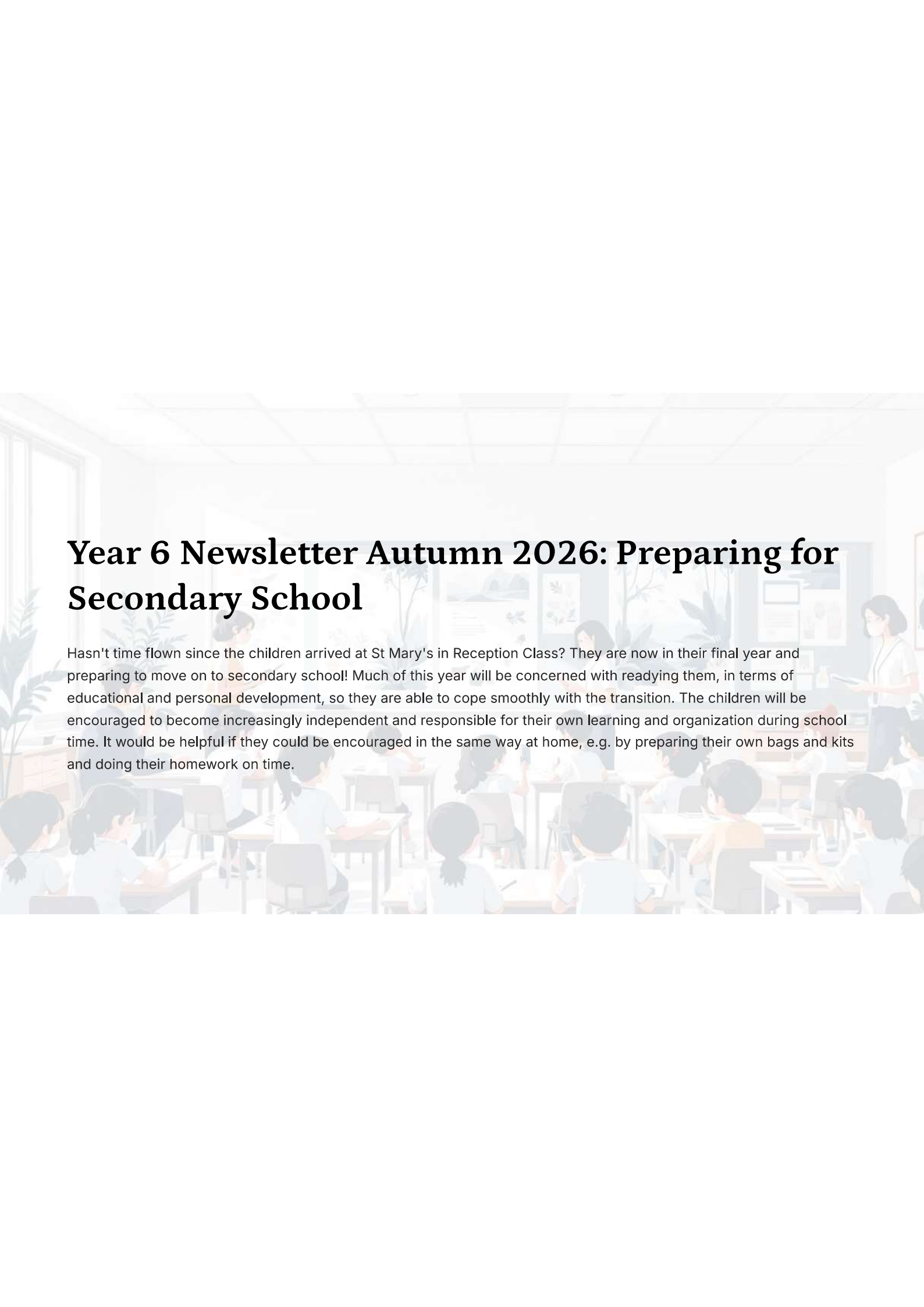




Year 6 Newsletter Autumn 2026: Preparing for Secondary School

Hasn't time flown since the children arrived at St Mary's in Reception Class? They are now in their final year and preparing to move on to secondary school! Much of this year will be concerned with readying them, in terms of educational and personal development, so they are able to cope smoothly with the transition. The children will be encouraged to become increasingly independent and responsible for their own learning and organization during school time. It would be helpful if they could be encouraged in the same way at home, e.g. by preparing their own bags and kits and doing their homework on time.

Meet the Year 6 Team

Teaching Schedule

This year, both Mr. Day, Mrs. Bell and the rest of the Year 6 team will be working together to give your child the very best education we can offer. A reminder that Mr Day will usually lead the class on Monday, Thursday and Friday whilst Mrs Bell take Tuesday and Wednesday.

Our Approach

We believe in fostering independence and responsibility. Children will be encouraged to take ownership of their learning as they prepare for secondary school.

Communication

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

PLEASE CHECK SCHOOL SPIDER, THE WEBSITE, AND HOMEWORK BOOKS REGULARLY:

www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk look for CLASSES / year 6 for updates on homework, messages for the children and other information about school life!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter!

Mr Day & Mrs Bell

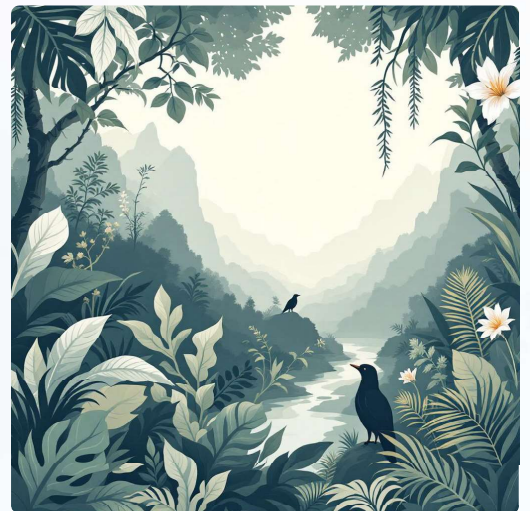
Our Geography Topic: Could You Survive in a Rainforest?

Much of our work this term will be concerned with the rainforests with a particular focus on South America. Children should be encouraged to look at maps and atlases, read information books and look out for newspaper and magazine articles related to this topic.

We have a saying in Year 6: '**Knowledge is power!**'

SCIENCE:

Our **science** work revolves around Living Things and Habitats. We will be finding out about plants and animals, how they are classified, how they survive and how they are suited to where they live.



Literacy



Text Types

A range of text types including different narrative genres: autobiography, diaries and fictional writing will be covered.



Grammar & Punctuation

We will investigate connectives and complex sentences and explore the use of more sophisticated punctuation.



Spelling

In spelling we will use rules, prefixes and suffixes to support our work. We will also learn a number of 'tricky' words.

- It's worth remembering that to be assessed as 'at expected' or above for writing at the end of Year 6 (and therefore going forwards into secondary school), ***spelling has to be consistently good and the weekly tests need to show a high score.***

Please help your child to learn spellings and to find words with similar patterns. Don't forget, you'll need to learn all of the term's words for 'The Grand Spell'.

Reading and Reading Incentives

It is expected that the children will read regularly at home. Through reading, and reading for enjoyment in particular, it has been proven that this is ***the #1 thing that children can do to make a positive impact upon their educational potential***. Please support us with home reading...

1 Reading Requirements

There is an expectation of x3 recorded 'reads' from Sunday to Sunday.

2 Recording Progress

Children need to record what has been read and should collect NEW or INTERESTING VOCABULARY in their comment boxes – there is no need for a lengthy comment.

3 School Support

Reading time in school lunch hours will be provided if your child does not maintain the minimum reading requirements. Please ensure that your child's reading record is in school daily.

4 Battle of the Books

Encourage your child to go for the Y6 'Battle of the Books' challenge and be in with a chance of appearing on our 'green screen' review Tweets and the privilege of being awarded a coveted reading champion badge. Information is on the 'Parent Information' tab under 'Reading/Battle of the Books' on the school website.

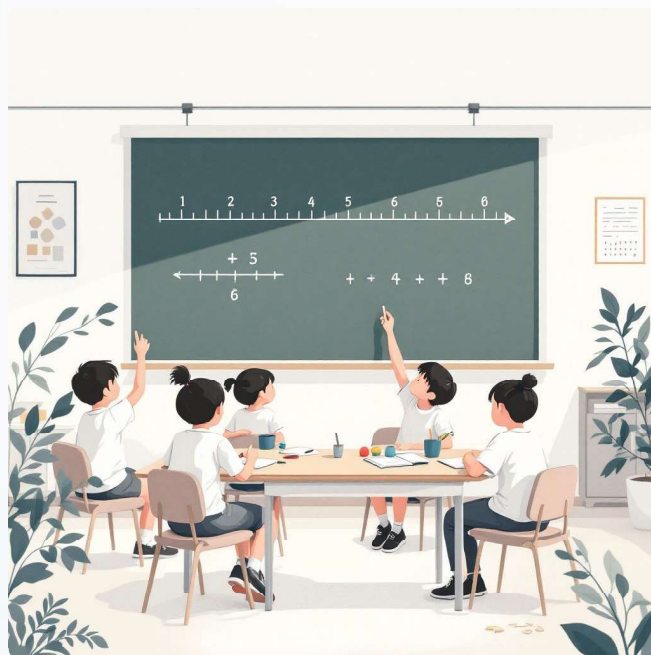
5 Reading Books

Our scheme follows our 'metro map' system which will follow-on from the point at which your child left off in Year 5 or at a more suitable point if we feel your child is ready.

Mathematics

A huge range of maths topics will be covered including recapping efficient, formal written methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals. Also, strong emphasis will be placed on the learning and quick recall of mental facts including doubling and halving skills and times tables.

Developing quick, efficient methods of mental recall is key.



If either you or your child are worried about maths, come and see us. We will try to help.

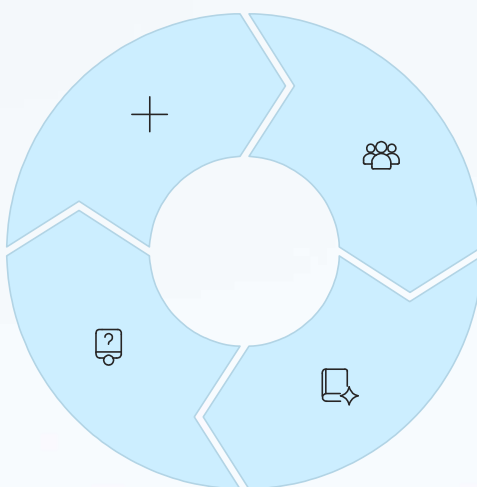
IXL.COM is another resource that St Mary's invest in **just for Year 6 pupils**. More information to follow, along with your child's login details and so on.

Addition & Subtraction

Efficient methods for whole numbers and decimals

Problem Solving

Applying skills to real-world situations



Multiplication & Division

Formal written methods and mental strategies

Mental Maths

Quick recall of number facts and times tables



Physical Education

- i An indoor and outdoor kit (in a small, string kit bag), including trainers and a warm top should be in school at all times and we ask that it is washed after PE lessons. PE will take place on Monday and Tuesday afternoons this term.

Kit Requirements

- PLAIN WHITE T-SHIRT/POLO SHIRT
- DARK BLUE OR BLACK SHORTS / DARK BLUE SKIRT/SKORTS
- BLACK PUMPS / TRAINERS
- WARM OUTDOOR (hoodless) TOP

Important Note

PE is a part of the national curriculum and it is essential that children have the right kit for these lessons in order to participate.

Other Curriculum Areas



ART

Will be linked to developing photographic art skills, looking at photomontages and representation through a lens.



Design Technology

This will be based on 'control' – linked to ICT, algorithms and programming games.



RE

Autumn 1 term is all about Hinduism and how a Hindu might live their lives. In Autumn 2, we study 'Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?' Please talk to your pupils about their learning on these interesting topics.

RSHE

Covers a wide range of topics including 'The Family and people who care for us,' 'caring friendships', 'respectful relationships' and 'being safe'.

LANGUAGES

Spanish continues to be our chosen modern foreign language. We aim to continue to equip your child with some of the essentials over the course of the year.

Year 6 Events

Orange for Orangutan Day

Sponsored run in aid of the Orangutan Foundation – Oct/Nov

1



2

Buddies Assembly

We hope to spend some time learning with our new buddies, and then to host an assembly in October 2025. Please watch this space for more information on this.

- ❑ Keep an eye on School Spider, and the school website for updates on these events and more throughout the year!

Remember to...



Read Daily

Read a little every day and learn to enjoy what you read!



Practice Spelling

Learn spelling rules and think of similar words. Repetition works best to memorise spellings.



Revise Maths

Revise your times tables and mental maths



Learn Vocabulary

Learn science vocabulary

Homework

We aim to use the new School Spider Pupil App for this. More details to follow.

Homework Tasks

Complete maths and literacy homework tasks (given on a Thursday) each week to a high standard. Normally, homework is to be complete for the following Monday. Please note we need a written note if for any reason homework is to be handed in late.

Some useful 'sticky knowledge' organisers for your reference:

Religious Education:

Why do Hindus want to be good?

Knowledge
Organiser

Wonderful words

Dharma: Duty, by fulfilling their dharma Hindus believe they will attain moksha

Samsara: the cycle of life, death and rebirth

Reincarnation: the rebirth of the atman in another body

Atman: the spark of Brahman in every living creature

Duty: an obligation you have because of who you are

Karma: the total of all a person's actions which decides their future existence

Moksha: the release from the cycle of life, death and rebirth

Brahman: a formless, ultimate reality, one energy or consciousness in the universe, the source of everything

Ahimsa: the belief not to cause harm to any living creature

Deity: Brahman channelled into different forms

So how does it all work?



Important information

In the Hindu Dharma all animals and humans have a spark of **Brahman** inside them and this is called **atman**. Brahman is represented in the form of many deities. The atman is pure, eternal and unchanging. This is someone's true self, but is tangled up with a creature's physical body.

The belief in **reincarnation** is that the atman moves from one living creature to the next in a cycle which is called **samsara**. Karma is the law of cause and effect, someone's positive actions lead to good karma and negative actions lead to bad karma and these will have consequences in the next life.

Your karma is linked to your **dharma** and if you fulfil your **duty** you will have good karma. The Hindu stories help people to understand what their dharma is and how they would live their life. A key part of everyone's dharma is not to cause harm to any living creature and this is known as **ahimsa** and is a very important belief for Hindus. If someone fulfils their dharma, understands the atman and leads a good life they will attain **moksha**, a release from samsara.

Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?

Knowledge Organiser

Wonderful words

Messiah: a saviour from God promised in the Hebrew texts

Incarnation: 'in the flesh'; Christians believe Jesus is God 'in the flesh', or God incarnate

Saviour: Jesus came to save or rescue people e.g., by showing them how to live

Immanuel: a Hebrew name meaning God is with us

Micah: a prophet from God who promised a rescuer

Theological: about the study of God and religious belief

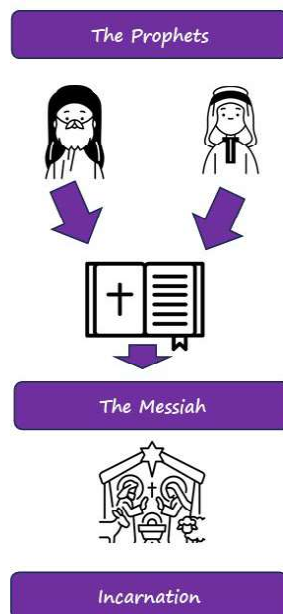
Prophecy: a prediction of what will happen in the future

Gospel: the good news about Jesus, a book of the New Testament recounting Jesus' life

Prophet: a messenger sent from God

Isaiah: a prophet from God who told of a rescuer and what the Messiah would be like

So how does it all work?



Important information

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden they were sent away from God. This is known as The Fall.

Humans cannot sort this out themselves and need a rescuer to bring them back to God, a **Saviour**. In the Old Testament there is a **prophecy** that God will send a **Messiah** to bring people back to him. The **prophet** Micah and the prophet **Isaiah** both speak of this rescuer who God will send to heal the damage done by people's disobedience.

Christians say this saviour is Jesus, who is God in human form which is a belief they call the **incarnation**. People who want to find out how the events of the life Jesus show he is God in the flesh will make a **theological** study of the **gospel** story, looking at events such as the birth of Jesus, his crucifixion and resurrection to show how he healed the gap between God and humans.

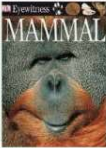
Some Christians will refer to Jesus as **Immanuel** as God is with them on earth.

Science:



Year 6: What have they got in common?

Animal Classification Knowledge Mat (Biology)

Subject specific vocabulary	Interesting Book	Sticky Knowledge about animal classification of animals
Micro-organism Micro-organisms are tiny. They are so small they can only be seen with a microscope.	 	☐ Be able to classify living things into broad groups according to observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences. ☐ Know how living things have been classified.
vertebrates A vertebrate is an animal that has a backbone.		
invertebrate An Invertebrate animal does not have a backbone and 97% of creatures belong to this group.	Interesting & important facts	☐ Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. ☐ Know the work of scientists and pioneers such as Carl Linnaeus / Charles Darwin
species This is the grouping together of similar species of plant, animal and other organisms.	• Vertebrates tend to be much more intelligent than invertebrates.	
fungi Fungi are a group of living organisms which are classified in their own kingdom. This means they are not animals, plants, or bacteria.	• The largest vertebrate is the blue whale, which can grow to over 100 feet long and 400,000 pounds.	
monera The whole organism is made up of just one cell. The cell is more basic than cells of other organisms.	• The smallest vertebrate is thought to be a tiny frog called the Paedophryne amauensis. It only grows to about 0.3 inches long.	
bacteria Bacteria are tiny little organisms that are everywhere around us.	• Vertebrate animals can be either warm or cold-blooded. A cold-blooded animal cannot maintain a constant body temperature. The temperature of their body is determined by the outside surroundings.	
algae Is a single or multi-cellular organism that has no roots, stems or leaves and is often found in water.	• There are a wide variety of interesting ocean animals that are invertebrates. These include sponges, corals	

Geography:

Y6: The Rainforest

Could you survive in a rainforest?

Subject Specific Vocabulary

canopy	The canopy , which may be over 30 m above the ground, is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees.
emergent layer	The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy.
understory	The understory layer is a tangle of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.
deforestation	When forests are cut down and the area is permanently cleared for another use.
endangered	An endangered species is a species which has been categorized as very likely to become extinct.
indigenous	Indigenous people or things belong to the country in which they are found
biomes	Biomes are distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate.
temperate	Relating to or denoting a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.
extinction	The extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members.
destruction	The act of destroying something.
biodiversity	Variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Slick Knowledge

Many creatures are endangered that live in the rainforest.

- Chimpanzees
- Gorillas
- Orangutans
- Poison dart frogs
- Tigers

Exciting Books

Where are the famous rainforests?

Amazon, Brazil

Australia & West Africa

Roughly 50% of all living plants and animals live in or come from rainforests.

They are the wettest places on Earth with no 'dry season'.

Rainforests are known as 'the lungs of the Earth' because the trees give off so much oxygen for our planet.

There are still indigenous humans who survive in the rainforest - well away from 'civilization'. The Pygmies of Central Africa are a good example.