



Year 4 Autumn 1 - Topic Letter

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been really pleased with how well the children have started – they have certainly shown great enthusiasm and are beginning to settle well into the new routines of Year 4.

We shall be covering the following areas this half-term in our topic. In the past, many parents have requested links to the topic where they can support their child in the learning going on in school. These are purely optional.

	Curriculum covered this half-term	Optional suggestions for home-learning
English	<p>Spelling: Topic spellings (rainforest) Science vocabulary Verbs ending in –ed and –ing Conjunctions</p> <p>Grammar: Parts of a sentence- nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions Rhetorical questions and other ‘devices’ to help persuade.</p> <p>Writing: Information texts, where the children will be able to make their own mini non-fiction book, poetry, persuasive writing and letters based on the rainforest theme.</p> <p>Reading: the children will bring home reading records with their colour ‘banded’ books.</p> <p>Handwriting: Introduction to presentation skills Joined-up handwriting for all is our aim</p>	<p>When you are reading with your child at home, please make sure they are pausing when there is punctuation and that you draw their attention towards it.</p> <p>It would also be really useful if you were able to help your child with the presentation of their homework and make sure they are using a sharp pencil or a black handwriting pen. Encourage your child to write the date and a title for each piece of work and to underline these.</p>
Maths	<p>Place Value: to two decimal places and rounding to the nearest ten or hundred. Addition and subtraction. Multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 Area and perimeter Shapes including nets for 3D shapes</p>	<p>http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/addition-and-subtraction</p>
Science	<p>Habitats</p>	<p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/plant_animal_habitats/read/1/</p>
ICT	<p>PowerPoint presentations about the rainforest Publisher – making labels for smoothies</p>	
Geography	<p>Rainforest</p>	<p>This is an excellent website giving information about the rainforest for children: http://kids.mongabay.com/</p>
PE	<p>Gymnastics and football</p>	<p>If you would like to let us know what other activities your child does on a weekly basis, there is a place on the homework sheet where you can write this down.</p>

DT/ ART	Rainforest Art based on an artist – collages Smoothies	
PSHE	New Beginnings	
French	Classroom equipment	
Music	Rainforest jingles	

Please could the children bring in **named water bottles** every day, to keep them hydrated as they learn.

If you have any old shirts and newspaper could you also send those in, as they would be useful during art or any practical lessons.

Dates for your diary:

Curriculum workshop for parents Thursday 29th September 7.00-8.30pm
 Parents evening – **Tuesday 4th October** and **Thursday 13th October** 4.00 - 7.00pm.
 Joint Year 4 Assembly and Rainforest Café - **14th October**
 Open Afternoon – **Wednesday 19th October 2.45-3.30pm**

We look forward to a happy and successful term with the children. Please introduce yourselves when you see us in the playground as, although you may recognise us, at the moment we don't know some of you! Please also feel free to arrange to see the class teacher after school if you have any concerns or questions relating to your child.

With best wishes

Ms Essex and Ms Sweeney
Year 4 Class Teachers