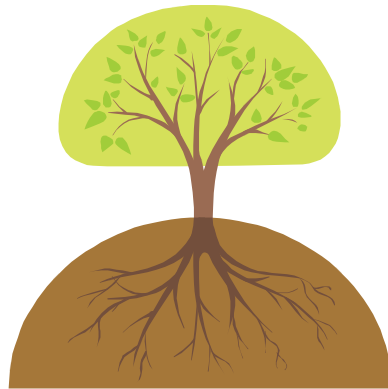




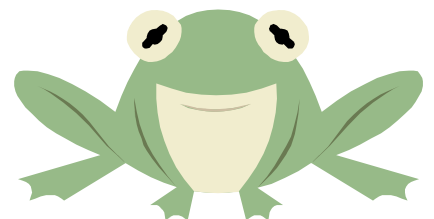
# The Living



# Rainforest

Years 5 and 6

Spring Term—First Half



This topic will last for the six week half term. We will be adopting the teaching style outlined in the rose review. This means that the focus will be more on developing the children's skills in order for them to obtain knowledge in an experience rich curriculum.

### **Understanding English, Communication and Languages**

The children will be working on developing the technical side of writing. They will work on developing their audience awareness skills, developing their use of advanced punctuation and varying the sentence types that they use. In addition to this the children will also practice some of the higher level writing skills, such as using a variety of sentence openers and using skills and knowledge to spell complex words accurately.

The children will also continue with their learning of French and German, developing their knowledge of the language and gaining confidence in speaking it.

### **Mathematical Understanding**

The children will develop their skills associated with data handling. They will investigate the mean and mode of data and construct bar, line and pie charts. The children will look at the probability scale and use the range to describe data.

In shape and space the children will develop their angle measuring and drawing skills as well as making sensible estimates about the size of angles, using prior skills.

### **Historical, Geographical and Social Understanding**

Predominantly, the focus of this topic is the Rainforest. During this topic the children will be able to show an understanding of this environment. They will be able to explain theirs and other's views, using primary and secondary sources to gather information. The children will look at the ways in which humans have affected the environment as well as identifying where Rainforests are in the world. We will also be going on a school trip to the Living Rainforest in Newbury on Thursday 21st January 2010.

The children's independent topic for this half term is history based. Although the choice of topic is theirs, by doing the topic the children will develop their historical research skills, examine cause and effect and research characteristics and behaviours associated with the inhabitants of this environment. We do encourage the children to do some of this project at home, although they will be given time in school to work on it.

Before the start of the ICT topic, the children will look at the issues of cyber bullying. By doing this the children will develop their skills of identifying dangers, creating awareness, explaining risks and expressing views about situations.

### **Scientific and Technological Understanding**

The children will continue to develop their investigative skills in science, exploring the functions of different parts of plants. This is a vocabulary rich topic, with the children learning the scientific names for the various parts of the plant as well as their functions. Throughout the topic the children will develop their observational skills as well as making predictions with reasoning. We will also be focusing on writing conclusions, ensuring the correct technical vocabulary.

### **ICT**

All Hampshire schools will eventually have a Learning Platform or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which will enable the children to access some of their work at home via an Internet connection. This half term the children will be introduced to Wizkid, the learning platform being used at Burnham Copse. The children will have usernames and passwords and be shown how to log on. Wizkid has a huge amount to offer, so we will go through with the children some of its fea-

tures as well as using it as a learning tool in class.

Due to the fact that this is an Internet based programme, we will also be covering E-Safety issues that could potentially arise from malpractice. If you would like to know more about this learning platform, please come into school to see us.

### **Understanding the Arts**

The children will be developing a number of skills in the arts subjects this term. The children will get the opportunity to pick suitable materials to achieve a goal, think about working to scale, create melodic and rhythmic pieces of music and will memorise their own parts in musical compositions.

### **Understanding Physical Development, Health and Well-being**

Our focus for PE this half term will be dance. The children will be able to develop their dance composition skills, plan and create performances in groups as well as developing their sense of rhythm. We will be using a number of different pieces of music associated with the Rainforest.

The games focus for this half term will be football. The children will be developing their tactical awareness, team playing skills, control and passing skills.

### **Key Dates for this half term**

Monday 4th January—INSET DAY

Friday 8th January —First Half of Family Day in school

Friday 15th January—Second half of Family Day in school

Thursday 21st January—Year 5 and 6 school trip to the Living Rainforest

Friday 22nd January—Y6 Sex Education session

Friday 22nd January —Speedmark Event

Tuesday 2nd February—Football and Netball Fixture at Bishopswood

Thursday 4th February—Parent Work shadow Day

Friday 12th February—End of half term

### **To support your child at home;**

To support your child's learning at home it is imperative that they get the opportunities to read to an adult and discuss the books. For some children it would also help them if they were able to listen to an adult reading to them. They are never too old for this!

The children will be set homework on a weekly basis. Where possible the children will need to be independent with this, but they may need support in keeping on track and reminding of that fact that they need to apply what they already know. If they find something too difficult, please come into school to see your child's teacher before the homework is due in. There is a homework club in school on a Thursday a lunch time that the children are able to attend.

### **Useful Websites**

- [www.thinkuknow.com](http://www.thinkuknow.com)
- <http://www.rainforestanimals.net/>
- <http://www.rain-tree.com/facts.htm>
- <http://www.hantswizkid.com/>

Basic skills are the important building-blocks of learning.

*There are many things you can do at home to help your child to acquire and improve their basic skills in speaking and listening, reading, writing and number ....many of which do not involve any sitting down or writing!!*

*Active children who are given lots of opportunities to explore in different situations and encouraged to ask questions learn well- here are some suggestions for how you can help at home.*

Help your child acquire basic skills by:

- taking every opportunity which arises to talk to and with your children, articulating their feelings and ideas.
- ask them questions to make them think about the world as it is, politics, social issues, current affairs
- help them to extend their vocabulary (before the teenage grunt phase begins!) and let them listen to and join in with adult conversations whenever possible or appropriate.
- let your child help when you are cooking and give them every opportunity to have a go at making a meal for the family (including budgeting, shopping etc).
- continue to read to your child or share a book together, talk about books, read the same book and review it—let us know of other ways you find!

