

## Gatten and Lake Primary School Curriculum News

### Year 4 Spring 2: 'I'm a Pupil, Get me out of here!'



#### At school this half term the children will be:

- Developing their geographical knowledge of the rainforests, especially their location in the world and identifying where Rainforests can be found on a world map.
- Identifying the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones in the context of rainforests.
- Learning about the features of the layers of a rainforest and the climate zones and biomes within a rainforest.
- Learning about the vanishing Rainforest and how we can help to save it.
- Learning about the different animals, birds and plant-life within the different layers of the rainforest.
- Comparing the human and physical geography of the Amazon Rainforest and Forests in the UK.
- Finding out about the effect humans have had on the rainforests, deforestation, land use and species endangerment.
- In science we will be continuing our focus on changing materials before moving onto Living Things and Habitats, which fits nicely with our Rainforest theme this term.
- In PSHE our focus this term is children's uniqueness and it's 'Good to be Me'
- In ICT we will be looking at algorithms and using 'Logo' programming to create on-screen patterns using sequences of commands.
- In PE there will be a focus on Country Dancing and Net & Wall Skills, including Netball and Basketball.

#### At home the children might like to

- Design their own creature for the Rainforest, thinking about where it might live, its diet and whether it has any predators.
- Comparing the weather in the UK to a rainforest region. Collect weather information about the UK for 7 days and compare this with the weather in Antalaha, Madagascar.
- Visit Amazon World to see some of the creatures you might encounter in the rainforest.

## What we did last half term...



### Maths

In maths the children moved onto the geometry, measure and statistics side of the curriculum, looking at 2D shapes, classifying triangles and quadrilaterals, symmetry across a mirror lines, understanding and converting different measures and interpreting information in bar graphs and pictograms. Children also took part in the NSPCC national numbers day, taking part in different number-related activities.



### Science

In science we looked at materials and learnt about the 3 states of matter; solid, liquid and gas and the scientific names given to changes between the states. We learnt how the 'Water Cycle' is made up of some of these changes, such as; evaporation and condensation.

### English

In English the children worked really hard to develop their stamina for writing and to organise their writing into paragraphs, following themes. They used their new found skills of paragraphing to predict what happened in the last chapter of our shared reading book 'The Firework Makers Daughter'.

We also started a unit of work on 'Twisted Fairy tales', following the production of Sleeping Beauty. Children came up with their own twist on the story of Sleeping Beauty and other well-known fairy tales and have developed their writing further by writing dialogue between characters and using this dialogue to create a script.



### Curriculum

Our theme for last half term was 'The Vicious Vikings' and the children learnt how vicious...or not so vicious the Vikings were. We learnt how the Vikings came from Iceland and Greenland to invade Britain for its natural resources and ended up staying in Britain, alongside the Angles, Jutes and Saxons.

We learnt about the harsh judicial system in Viking times and how stealing could literally cost you an arm or a leg...or in most cases a hand. We used papier mache to create Viking Helmets and have created designs for Viking shields, which will be finished over the next couple of weeks.

**Get Fit, Get Healthy:** Over the last half term we started a new daily exercise regime. At the start of each day we have 10 minutes of aerobic exercise, either skipping, following the mile-a-day circuit on the playground or doing a 'Fitter Future' workout in the classroom.