

Year 3 and 4 Autumn Term 2 Curriculum Newsletter

Bassingbourn Community Primary School

Our main topic: Why are rainforests important to us?

In Geography, the children will find out where tropical rainforests are and learn about their climate, layers, plants and wildlife. They will explore how people depend on rainforests, investigate threats such as deforestation and consider how these special environments can be protected.

Other Subjects

Religion: What makes some texts sacred?

French: School days

PE: Dance and ball skills

Music: Musical motifs: reading the stave

Computing: Connecting devices

PSHE / Class Assemblies: How can we respect each other?



English

This half term, children will develop their reading and writing through Greek myths.

In Reading, the children will study Greek Myths by Jean Menzies, meeting gods, heroes and mythical creatures. In Writing, the same book will inspire their own adventure mini-book. Children will create imaginative settings and characters, choose powerful vocabulary, and plan, write and edit their own myth.

Year 3 spelling will include the prefixes re-, dis- and mis-, and adding -ing, -er, -ed and -en to longer words. Year 4 will focus on -ation, -ly and -lly, and ch for /sh/, alongside Year 3 and 4 challenge words.

Maths

Using the NCETM approach, children will continue their work on numbers to 1,000, using practical equipment and visual representations to explain place value and mathematical relationships. The final weeks are set aside for consolidation, giving children time to secure key ideas and apply them to problems.

Regular times-table practice will continue through Times Tables Rock Stars.

Science

This half term, children will focus on: **Energy: Electricity and Circuits**

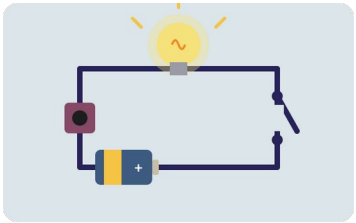
Children will identify everyday appliances that run on electricity and learn how to use electricity safely.

Through practical investigations, they will build simple circuits with cells, wires, bulbs, buzzers and switches, and find out why a circuit may not work. They will also test which materials are conductors and which are insulators.

Design and Technology

This half term, our focus is fastenings. Children will explore different fastenings, such as buttons, press studs, Velcro and zips, and compare how well each one works.

Using what they find out, they will design, make and evaluate their own textile product, choosing the most suitable fastening.





Year 3 and 4 Home Learning Menu Autumn 2 Term

Bassingbourn Community Primary School

In Years 3 and 4, children should read regularly: one Accelerated Reader book matched to their reading level and one more aspirational book to share with an adult. They should also practise times tables on TTRS and complete weekly tasks on Spelling Shed.

Children should choose at least one project from the menu. Completed projects will be shared during Presentation Day in the final week.

Project deadline: Monday 14th December

English Imagine you are a Greek hero who has discovered a mysterious island. Create a comic strip showing your encounter with a mythical creature, using powerful adjectives and exciting conjunctions.	**Reading** Choose a favourite book and write a review. Include a short summary, your favourite moment and who you would recommend it to.	**Maths** Find five numbers between 100 and 1,000 at home or in a shop. Put them in order, then show each one as hundreds, tens and ones.	**Science** Find five electrical items at home and sort them into battery-powered and mains-powered. Design your own invention that uses a circuit and label its parts.
Geography Create a poster showing the layers of a rainforest and the animals that live in each one. Include three facts about why rainforests need protecting.	**Design and Technology** Look closely at the fastenings on clothes, bags and shoes at home. Draw five different ones and explain which works best and why.	**Computing** Find five devices at home that connect to the internet. Draw a diagram showing how they connect, and add one way to stay safe online.	**Music** Create a short musical motif of three to five notes. Write it on a stave or with your own symbols, then repeat and change it.
PE Choreograph a short rainforest or Greek hero dance. Teach it to someone at home and explain three of your movement choices.	**PSHE** Design a superhero whose special power is respect. Draw their costume and describe three ways they help others feel valued.	**Religion** Choose a book that is special to you or your family. Explain why it matters and how you look after it.	**French** Make a poster in French labelling things you use at school, such as a pencil, a book and a chair.