

# Willow Class Spring Term

We hope that you have had an enjoyable festive season and look forward to welcoming you back into year 4. We have a busy but exciting term ahead of us. This newsletter should cover any questions you may have, however, if you have any further questions then please feel free to e-mail or speak to myself, or a member of the support team. We are always happy to help.

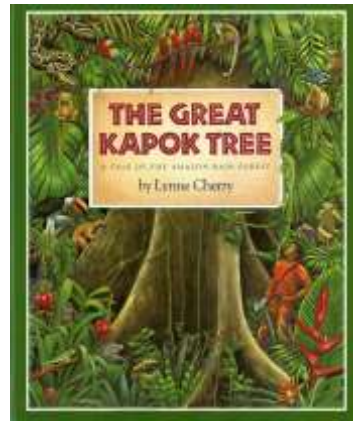
## Our learning this term

This term our learning will focus on **rainforests** as a uniting theme. Through this topic we will learn about climate zones and biomes through our geography, comparing different rainforest habitats, as well as looking at the impact of deforestation. We will also link our science learning to this, when we learn about food chains, predators and prey, and classification keys. There will also be lots of opportunities to look at animals and plants through our art and DT projects. We will focus on several books during this topic, including **The Great Kapok Tree**.

Our history work will mainly focus on the Maya civilisation and how we can link what was happening there to the Anglo-Saxons that we have already learned about.

We have two particularly exciting opportunities planned:

- Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Chocolate Workshop visitor to school



## Home Learning

Our home learning will be split into 2 categories: weekly essentials and enrichment ideas.

### Weekly Essentials:

**Reading:** Please continue to support your child's home reading. We ask that they read for a minimum of 3 times a week which should be logged in your reading diaries. We would really like to see more involvement in this area.

**Maths Challenges:** A maths challenge will be provided each week. ***We will be mostly focussing on consolidating times tables knowledge this term, through home learning.***

**Spelling challenge:** Spellings should be practised on Spelling Shed. These will be tested on a Friday.

**Flashback 4:** This will be in the form of 4 retrieval questions. This will be a quick task to complete and help children to remember what they have been learning across the curriculum.

### Enrichment Ideas:

Please choose some of these activities over the whole of the term to show creativity with your home learning.

## General Reminders

- **PE:** Our main PE lessons will be on Monday - We try to do as many lessons outside as possible so it is important that the children have **both inside and outside PE kits** including suitable footwear and warm clothing. Please ensure that children with long hair have it tied back and earrings are removed. We would suggest you leave their kit at school so it is always available.
- **Uniform:** Can you please make sure uniform & PE kits are clearly labelled to avoid confusion when children misplace some of their belongings.
- **Coats:** As the weather is changeable and we like to use our outdoor learning environment, please ensure that your child has a suitable coat with them regardless of the weather conditions.
- **Water bottles:** The children should bring in a water bottle from home with a sports style cap, which they can access throughout the day. They will be encouraged to change their water regularly and take them home each evening to be washed. Please make sure your child's name is written clearly on their water bottle.
- **Rucksacks:** Your child should only need to bring their packed lunch, a water bottle and their reading book if they wish to change it. PE kits can be stored at school throughout the term. As children should not be bringing non-essential items in from home, rucksacks should not be brought into school, especially as there is limited storage space in the classroom.



### **Look out for...**

- 8<sup>th</sup> January - Hook Day - Rainforest Explorers - A fun way to kick-start our topic!
- 5<sup>th</sup> February - Children's Mental Health Week
- 28<sup>th</sup> February - Chocolate Workshop (in school)
- 7<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> March - Science Week
- 12<sup>th</sup> March - Yorkshire Wildlife Park Trip
- 15<sup>th</sup> March - Comic Relief
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - Y4 Learning Share
- Final Week - Easter competitions

We will also be observing other important events this term, including: International Women's Day, LGBTQI+ History Month, Martin Luther King Jr Day, Safer Internet Day, Energy Saving Week, Chinese New Year, Ramadan... and more.

Keep checking class blogs and Facebook for regular updates to our learning journey!

**Rainforest Explorer's Hook Day - 8<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Fancy dress optional - explorer outfits or rainforest animals.**

**Thank you for reading. Mr Middleton**