

Colehill First School

SPRING TERM LEARNING LETTER FOR KESTRELS

This letter is designed to give you a flavour of the main areas of learning for the term. We welcome your feedback!

Living Things and their Habitats

Our main topic this term has a strong emphasis on science and geography. We will be finding out about different habitats around the world and looking at the plants and animals that live there. We will identify the differences and similarities between different organisms and use simple keys and branching diagrams to understand how they are grouped and classified. Children will look at some habitats in more depth and find out how the living things that live there are specially adapted to their habitat. We will also study food chains so that children gain an understanding of producers, predators and prey and know how all living things impact upon one another. We will also look at the digestive system in humans and identify different types of teeth and their functions.

In geography we will learn how to use maps, atlases and globes to locate different climatic regions and different countries of the world, with a specific focus on South America and the Amazonian Rainforest. From here we will move on to look at what happens when things go wrong and habitats are destroyed. This will have a global focus and also a local focus too as we look at issues relating to our daily lives e.g. our school environment, recycling and Fair Trade. In social geography we will compare two geographically different locations, Bournemouth and Cali in Colombia to help the fledging Kestrels understand not only their place in the world but also the possible impact they can have on the planet and it's global community.

Key Maths Skills (Where appropriate maths will be delivered in a real world context)

We will be extending our existing learning by looking at:

- Building on our existing knowledge of addition and subtraction strategies in narrative contexts.
- Developing knowledge of multiplication and division strategies.
- Using and creating different graphs for plotting and interpreting data.
- Working with fractions/decimals including equivalence, simplifying, mixed numbers and improper fractions.
- Telling time on a 24 hr clock to the nearest minute.
- Solving problems involving different units of measure including time.

Key Writing Skills in English

We will be extending our existing learning by looking at:

- Tales from Other Cultures: Patterned/repetitive language of the Rainforest tribes and their beliefs
- Stories set in Imaginary worlds: Exploring the Amazon Basin, lost cities and mysterious temples
- Persuasive Texts: Advertising and changing people's perspective through writing
- Poetry: Comparison of style, evaluation and composition
- Spellings: Homophones, suffixes/prefixes, plurals
- Grammar: determiners, possessive pronouns, clauses and fronted adverbials

ICT

We will be improving our ICT skills, creating a multimedia presentation about aspects of life in a Rainforest as well as creating a database to include weather facts comparing climates of different habitats.

Also, we will delve further into understanding coding to create simple games and other applications. All ICT will be underpinned with an E-Safety focus and digital literacy in the modern world.

RE

- Judaism – Passover
- Christianity – Gospel

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Links

- Awe and wonder: looking at the beauty and fragility of our planet and all that lives on it
- The moral need to protect and care for our world, not just for today but for the long term future.
- Collaborative learning: working in small groups to find out about different habitats, looking at the beauty of them as well as why many are in danger of being destroyed.
- Cultural learning: how different cultures and communities are taking responsibility for protecting and caring for our environment.

Possible Home Learning Opportunities (with some adult support): *This year is the first National tables test for Year 4 children. It will take place in the summer term so any support practising tables from now would be most beneficial!*

In addition to on-going support with reading, spellings and tables, the following would be great -

- Look out for stories in the news related to animals and plants and their habitats e.g. when scientists discover a new species. Also watch out for news stories about habitat destruction and its impact on animals and plants as well as stories about the global environment.
- Use maps and atlases to become familiar with the location of key climatic regions e.g. the Arctic and Antarctic, rainforest areas, hot desert areas, grassland areas and mountain regions.
- Choose an animal or plant to study and identify how it is adapted to its habitat.
- Have a look for small habitats at home and find out what lives there e.g. under a stone/on a tree.