

# Dragon's Den News



St Margaret's-at-Cliffe  
Primary School  
Terms 3 & 4 2018  
Mrs. Wong and Miss. Allan



## 'Dragon's Den' leap into action and explore the rain forests of the wider world.

Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year! May I thank those of you, on behalf of Miss Allan and myself, for the very thoughtful Christmas gifts you gave us at the end of term; I have never seen so many!

The children have made a great start to this term and are already demonstrating their eagerness to get to grips with this term's new topics. The Spring term is such an important term when the children really engage and understand more challenging concepts. If they miss just a few days the children feel very left out when they miss the stepping stones which enable them to fully grasp a concept. I am particularly proud of the children at the moment, as they have become such eager learners and in turn are making such good progress.

**English:** The children will be reading Myths and Legend stories and some other stories from around the world connected to our topic of Rain Forests. Using these stories we will be concentrating on writing stories using descriptive language to set the scene. Non-fiction reports and diaries, leaflets and posters will also be a focus through writing as we explore the extraordinary facts of the rain forests around the world. The children will also have the opportunity to read and write their own play scripts and develop their ability to write and perform poetry. We will be immersing ourselves in understanding similes, metaphors, and personification and extending our understanding of how we can use this wonderful form of language in our descriptive writing. As always we will continue to read and analyse more challenging texts in groups throughout the week. The children really enjoy this activity.

**Maths:** This term our weekly topics are: number, place value and money, mental addition and subtraction, written addition and mental subtraction, measures/data, length, weight, bar charts, fractions ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{6}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ), measures/shape, time, position and direction, mental multiplication and division. We will spend approximately a week on each area with different daily objectives.



Science: The pupils will be learning about pollination and seed dispersal in flowering plants. They will learn about the anatomy of a flower which involves a role playing activity in which pupils learn about pollination as well as fertilisation and various methods of seed dispersal. After half term we will be learning lots about animals, skeletons and nutrition when we begin our topic on Animals including Humans.

In Art we will be looking at improving techniques such as drawing and painting with varied materials and will be focusing on artists such as Monet and Henri Rousseau. We will also be noticing and recreating patterns that occur naturally in the rain forests. In Design Technology the children will be making a diorama of a rain forest scene so please begin collecting shoe boxes, empty fruit nets and small items in preparation.



Our Geography topic is exploring the amazing rainforests around the world and looking towards how we can help prevent their demise. I know this topic will really excite the children so watch out, you'll be sure to be picking up 'gems of knowledge' courtesy of the children. Can you come on a great American Road Trip? Using ordinance survey maps of the United Kingdom and North and South America, we will be exploring the world identifying biomes, and key features of places.

Home learning continues to be a very important part of our class routine and I will be giving the children a variety of different investigative homework related to class learning and reading comprehension. I am always grateful for your support when helping your children at home. As always home learning will be given on a Friday and expected back the following Wednesday. Can I reiterate how important it is to have the homework in on a Wednesday otherwise I find it difficult to mark it in time for Friday.

P.E is now on Thursday and Friday. We will be going outside for games so please can the children have a tracksuit, warm top and socks in their bag (all marked with names please). Can I also ask you to regularly ask your child if their P.E shoes still fit them as I often hear cries of 'my shoes don't fit me' as we begin each session. Trainers are fine for outside but the children still need a pair of black plimsols for inside and of course now a gum shield ready for Quick Sticks hockey!

Weather! Although we have not yet had the freezing cold temperatures of previous years the wind is bitter in the playground so can you remind your children to wear their hat, scarf and gloves (all marked with names please). I really don't want the children catching a chill and then missing school.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for ensuring that bags come to school every day but could I just ask you to ensure that the reading and contact books are in the bag so we can change the books regularly. Could I also remind you of the importance of your child using an actual book bag, we have had water bottles leak on books and school work when rucksacks and other bags have been used.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs Wong**

