

# St John and St James C of E Primary School Class Newsletter

## Science

In Science, our topic this half term is Plants. We will be exploring the functions of the different parts of flowering plants and learning what plants need to grow and thrive. Through a range of exciting investigations, we will discover how water is transported within plants and understand the important role that bees play in supporting plants and biodiversity.



## Reading



In our reading lessons, we will continue to explore a range of high-quality fiction and non-fiction texts. Pupils will develop their comprehension skills by answering a variety of questions, with a particular focus on inference and summarising.

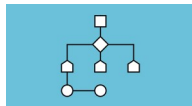
## Home Reading



Children are encouraged to read for 10-15 minutes daily to build fluency and confidence. Book changes take place on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** (12:30-1:30pm in the library). Please ensure reading records and book is brought in every day, with a 1-2 sentence summary written after each reading session.

## Computing

This half term, we will be learning how to use **Hours of Code**. We will be learning how to use programming and coding. We will learn how to create algorithms and debug an algorithm if there is an error.



## Spanish

This half term, our key focus is:  
**Unit 5 Mi gusta la princesa.**



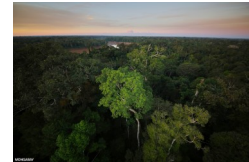
They will be using Spanish vocabulary to express their likes and dislikes, and respond to stories with gestures and mimes.

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 3, welcome back to SJSJ and the start of our summer term!

## Adults working in Year 3

Mrs Barrett  
Miss Kebbay  
Miss Taylor

## Humanities — Geography



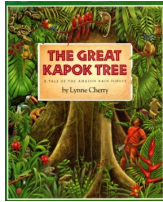
This term, our humanities learning will focus on the exciting topic of The Amazon Rainforest! We will be developing our geography skills as we explore the key question: **What are the effects of deforestation?** At the beginning of the term, we will carry out fieldwork in our local area to identify physical and human features. This will help us make comparisons between Hackney and the Amazon. Later in the term. We will then turn our attention to the Amazon Rainforest itself. Using maps and atlases, we will locate the rainforest and use lines of latitude and longitude to describe its position. We will also learn about the plants and animals that live there and explore how the different layers of the rainforest are interconnected.

## Dates for the diary

Friday 15th May  
Debate Day

## Writing

Our writing this half term will be inspired by a text closely linked to our geography learning:



### *The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry.*

We will begin by creating detailed setting descriptions, using the beautiful illustrations from the text to support our ideas. Our grammar focus will include using the power of three to build vivid and engaging descriptions.

We will also be writing non-chronological reports about the kapok tree and the Amazon Rainforest, focusing on presenting clear information using headings and subheadings.

Later in the term, we will write persuasive letters exploring the impact of deforestation on the biodiversity of the Amazon Rainforest. As part of this, we will practise using colons to introduce lists of the many animals that live in this unique environment.

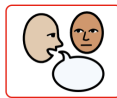
## Oracy

This half term, Year 3 will be debating the statement:

*"Rainforests are essential for our planet."*

Pupils will draw on their learning from geography and their persuasive writing to present arguments both for and against the statement.

They will practise speaking clearly and confidently, using appropriate volume and tone, while also developing their use of body language to deliver effective and engaging presentations.



## PSHE

Our values focus this half term is *Relationships.*

We will be learning about the importance of family roles and friendships, as well as how to stay safe online.

We will also explore how our choices and actions can affect those around us.



## Maths

This half term, we will be focusing on:

*Mass and Capacity,  
Fractions,  
Money.*

Year 3 will begin by exploring capacity and volume. They will compare, add and subtract different amounts, as well as find equivalent measures in millilitres and litres.

In the second unit, children will build on their understanding of fractions from Spring 2. They will learn to add and subtract both unit and non-unit fractions, as well as find fractions of a set of objects.

When learning about money, pupils will practise adding and subtracting amounts using real coins and will develop their skills in finding change through engaging role-play scenarios.

Please continue to support your child in practising their times tables at home. A great way to do this is by using *Times Table Rockstars.*



## RE

In RE, we will be focusing on Buddhism. Our learning this half term will be guided by the key question:

*What did the Buddha teach his followers about life?*

Throughout this topic, we will learn about who Siddhartha was and how he became the Buddha. We will also explore how Buddhists live their lives in accordance with his teachings of Buddha.

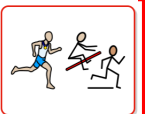


## PE

PE will continue to take place every Wednesday afternoon.

This term the focus is *Athletics.*

Please ensure that your child has the correct school PE uniform for each



## Homework

Homework will be uploaded onto *Google Classroom* each Friday.

This will be a document that consists of the *10 spelling words*, the maths focus and the grammar focus and what we have learnt in science and geography.

The children will be tested on the spelling words the following Friday.