

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Spring 2: Saving Our Environment

### Robins



This term, the class topic is 'Preserving our Planet' and it is supported by using the wonderful core text 'the Planet in a Pickle Jar' by Martin Stanev. The story is based around two children who visit their Grandma and think she is boring (even though the pictures say otherwise!). One day they happen upon grandma's magical pickle jar storage area where she preserves everything precious. She's also built an incredible underground sanctuary for endangered animals. Grandma explains that she needs their help to continue her life's work of preserving nature before it is entirely destroyed. Our topic therefore looks at Animals and their Habitats and discusses ways in which we can help the environment.

In English we will be writing a short story about 'Saving the Environment', based around our core text. We will also be writing a leaflet about a wild animal, incorporating many features of a non-fiction text.

In Science we will be learning all about Animals and their Habitats Around the World. This will include lessons on:

- Learning about habitats
- Exploring the Rainforest and its problems
- Describing life in the ocean
- Discovering the Arctic and Antarctic habitat

In Computing we will be learning to use simple spreadsheets, and our Art this half-term is focusing on the Environmental artwork of Andy Goldsworthy. The science and art lessons will also be incorporated into our school trip to the Wildlife Trust at Carsington Water. Our geography lessons are looking at identifying seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK, and also looking at hot and cold areas of the world.

In the last week of term, we will also be looking at the season of Spring and also be celebrating Easter.



### Woodpeckers



We made a SPLASH into our new topic this half term, with a trip down to the Longford brook! The children loved hunting for clues / hidden questions about our topic this half term – Rivers! Our core text 'A River' by Marc Maritn takes the children on an imaginary journey from the city to the sea. We will also be exploring a beautiful text by Grahame Baker-Smith – 'The Rhythm of the Rain' in our guided reading sessions.

In Science we will exploring the BIG Question – 'What can we do with electricity?' by identifying how to keep safe around electrical appliance, construct simple circuits and recognise common conductors and insulators.

In Geography, we will be studying the Water Cycle and our BIG Question will be 'Why are rivers so important?' and in our Art sessions, the children will be looking at the artist 'Friedensreich Hundertwasser' and specifically tie dye techniques and using fabric pens to create their own unique design!



### Owls

The Owls' topic this half term is, 'Climate Change', inspired by our core text, 'Greta's Story – The Schoolgirl Who Went On Strike To Save The Planet'. For the children's immersion they worked in pairs to design and create a protest placard.

In English we will be producing a balanced argument, discussing the key question, 'Do Children have the Right to Strike for the Environment?'. The children will focus on drafting, editing and assessing their own, and each other's, writing before finally publishing their arguments. Towards the end of the term, we will also hold a debate. The children will work in teams to generate arguments for and against the proposal, 'Should Children be allowed to Strike for the Environment?'.

In Geography this term, the children we exploring the enquiry question 'What methods can we use to explore the human and physical features of the Peak District?'. We will focus on our fieldwork skills and data collection.

In Science, our unit of work this term is 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. Our big question which we will be exploring and answering is 'Do all plants and animals reproduce in the same way?'.

We have an Art focus this term and will be studying the work of artist, photographer and environmental activist Benjamin Von Wong. We will be printing using recycled materials and creating a mixed media collage

