



# Amazing Amazon

## Year 6 Topic Newsletter - Autumn 1



### Topic

Our first topic this term is called '**Amazing Amazon**', which not only includes studying various aspects of the Amazon, but also includes our river study work in geography. To begin this topic, and in order to help with our river studies, we will be visiting the River Piddle in Wareham to identify wildlife and complete a river exploration. We are looking forward to visiting this location and know the children will enjoy the trip. After the river study work, we will focus on geography: continents and countries around the world, including South America. This will continue with looking at the biomes and vegetation of different areas. In addition to this, the children will have the opportunity to develop their artistic skills by creating interpretations of the Amazon landscape.

### English

During this half term, the children will be studying explanation texts, resulting in them writing their own explanation about rivers. The children will also have the chance to demonstrate their skills in fictional writing as they will write their own adventure in the Amazon. The inspiration for their writing will come from the novel 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell.

### Science

This half term will see the children developing their understanding of light. They will learn how we see objects, how light changes through different liquids and explore the colours that light is made up of.

### Reading

To kick start reading in class, we will be reading a novel called 'The Explorer', which follows a group of children stranded in the Amazon rainforest. We will then look at a non-fiction text called 'Journey Along the Amazon'. These sessions will explore the features of non-fiction texts, carrying out fact retrieval and beginning to deduct information from texts through inference.

Poet of the half term— Naomi Shihab Nye

Recommended books —Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo and Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome

### Dates for your Diary:

Year 6 Information Evening: Wednesday 6th September at 6pm

6H - River Trip: Monday 18th September

6BW - River Trip: Wednesday 20th September

6B - River Trip: Wednesday 20th September

### Maths

We will be teaching from the Year 6 objectives within the national curriculum and start with understanding place values then move on to comparing and ordering numbers. We will then continue to secure their knowledge of the formal methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will have a strong focus on problem solving and reasoning throughout all topics.

### PE

The children will be developing their tennis skills by practising the full range of shots through a number of fun games. As well as tennis, the children will also have the chance to try their hand at volleyball by developing the techniques of how to hit the ball, followed by small games.

### Homework

Just a quick reminder of when homework is set and due in:

**English/Maths** - Set on a Thursday and due in the following Wednesday.

**Spellings** - Set on a Monday and tested on Thursday.

**Reading** - Reading is vitally important, which is why the children are expected to read 4 times a week, for 30 minutes each time. This will be checked weekly, on a day allocated by the class teacher.

**Topic homework** - Your task is to make a model, leaflet or poster about a chosen river. More details will be sent home during the first week back. The homework is due in during the week beginning 16th October.

Don't forget that if you would like to speak with us then leave a message in your child's diary or with the office. If you require a longer appointment, please contact the school office who will find a mutually convenient time.

We are looking forward to an amazing start to Year 6 and a successful year!