



Rye Community Primary School

"A Gateway to learning"



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope you have had a fantastic break. Last term may have been short, but the Year 5 and 6 children worked incredibly hard to pack in as much learning as possible. We are confident that they will do the same this term, as we discover more about our exciting new topic.

Term 4 Learning in Year 5/6

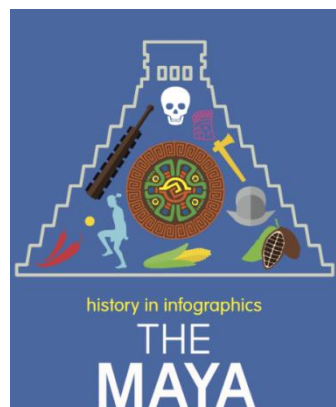
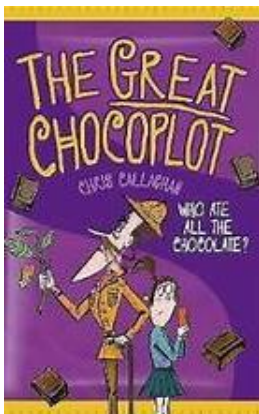
This term, our focus is 'Mayan Magic'. This fascinating learning journey will explore the ancient Maya civilization and how their environment, beliefs and knowledge made the Maya one of the most interesting, sophisticated civilizations.

In Science, we will be looking at '**Living Things and their Habitats**'. We will begin by looking at classifying animals, sorting them into different groups based on their species and characteristics. Following on from this, we will identify types of microorganisms, describing those which are helpful and those which can be harmful. This will form the start of our investigation into microorganisms.

English

The children wrote the most fantastic non-chronological reports last term, looking at Ernest Shackleton's journey to Antarctica. This term, we will begin by studying the poem 'Malfeasance', by Alan Bold. Poetry is our focus for this year's 'World Book Week', and Year 5 and 6 will be writing their own mysterious poems. Afterwards, we will use the fiction story 'The Great Chocoplot', by Chris Callaghan, to support our narrative story writing. To end the busy term, Dolphins and Marlin will write their own biographies based on the incredible artist Frida Kahlo.

Alongside our English learning, we will read the non-fiction text 'History in Infographics – The Maya'. This will further our knowledge on the Mayan civilization.





How you can help your child

- **Make sure your child reads daily** and discuss the stories in terms of reasons for characters' actions and reasons for the author's choices of vocabulary. **Don't forget to record reading sessions in reading records.**
- Discuss meanings of any new vocabulary your child comes across.
- Support with any English / Grammar and Maths homework online, through the CGP books, Maths SATs Buster Books (Year 6 only).
- Test children on their weekly spellings.
- Practise times tables on Times Table Rock Stars and orally. **Daily 10** is a fantastic website which will also help with times table fact recall.

Mathematics

In our Maths lessons, we will be covering a range of mathematical topics: beginning algebra, furthering our understanding of decimals, fractions and percentages, before beginning area and perimeter. Year 5 will be covering a range of mathematical topics: beginning with multiplication and division, furthering our understanding of fractions and finishing the term with perimeter and area.

Please continue to encourage chanting and recall of times table facts - it is so important that our children know their multiplication and division facts. This will greatly benefit them in all areas of Maths (including the SATs tests).

How you can help your child

- Look for opportunities to talk about maths in the everyday environment.
- Support your child and give them time to use mental calculation skills in real life contexts.
- Please ask your child about what they have been learning and encourage them to explain the methods they use in calculations.

PE

Year 6 have PE on **Monday afternoon and Friday morning.** Year 5 will have their lessons on **Monday and Friday afternoons.** Please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school on those days. This includes a white top, black shorts/leggings and sensible trainers or plimsolls. **NO football kits or sports hoodies please.**




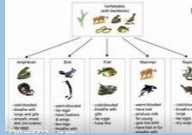

Homework

Homework will continue to be given out on a Friday and is expected to be in by the following Wednesday. It is important that homework is completed, as this will help support the learning they have been doing in school. Reading Comprehension and Grammar will be set from CGP books and for Year 6 Maths will continue to be from their SATs Buster books. Year 5 will continue to use their Maths CGP books.

The children will also be given 10 spellings to learn each week which they will be tested on each Friday. Please support your child as they learn these.



Some super topic Ideas that you can complete together

<p>Create a vector drawing of an animal. This will use our skills from Term 3 Computing lessons.</p> 	<p>Read a book based on the Mayan Civilization. What information can you find out ready to share with the class?</p> 	<p>Produce your own mysterious poem, taking inspiration from 'The Malfeasance'.</p> 	<p>Design your own classification grid, on your own chosen topic. In class, we will create classification grids based on the animal kingdom.</p> 	<p>Choose a Mayan God and find out 10 random facts about them, before presenting this to our class.</p> 
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If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us through Class Dojo.

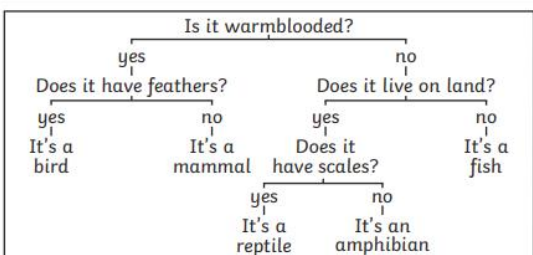
Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Brunton and Mrs Benn


Living Things and Their Habitats Year 6

Key Vocabulary	
characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make an individual or group of things different to others.
classify	To sort things into different groups.
taxonomist	A scientist who classifies different living things into categories.
key	A key is a series of questions about the characteristics of living things. A key is used to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to by answering 'yes' or 'no' questions.

Scientists, called Taxonomists, sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences.

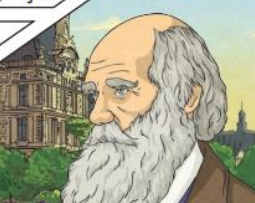


Classification
 In 1735, Swedish Scientist Carl Linnaeus first published a system for **classifying** all living things. An adapted version of this system is still used today: The Linnaeus System.



Living things can be **classified** by these eight levels. The number of living things in each level gets smaller until the one animal is left in its species level. This is how a dog would be classified.

Domain: Eukarya	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, ladybird, daisy, rabbit, fox
Kingdom: Animalia	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, ladybird, rabbit, fox
Phylum: Chordata	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, rabbit, fox
Class: Mammalia	jackal, cat, dog, rabbit, fox
Order: Carnivora	jackal, cat, dog, fox
Family: Canidae	jackal, dog, fox
Genus: Canis	jackal, dog
Species: Lupus	dog



Each group allows scientists to observe and understand the **characteristics** of living things more clearly. They group similar things together then split the groups again and again based on their differences.

Living Things and Their Habitats

Key Vocabulary	
bacteria	A single-celled microorganism .
microorganism	An organism that can only be seen using a microscope , e.g. bacteria , mould and yeast.
microscope	A piece of equipment that is used to view very tiny (microscopic) things by magnifying their appearance.
species	A group of animals that can reproduce to produce fertile offspring.

Helpful Microbes	
Bacteria – cheese	Bacteria – salmonella is a bacterium that can lead to food poisoning
Yeast – wine	Virus – chicken pox and flu are examples of viral diseases
Bacteria – yoghurt	Fungi – athlete's foot
Yeast – bread dough	Bacteria – plaque
Penicillium fungi - antibiotics	Fungi - mould

Microorganisms

Microorganisms are viruses, **bacteria**, moulds and yeast. Some animals (dust mites) and plants (phytoplankton) are also **microorganisms**.

Microorganisms are very tiny living things that can only be seen using a **microscope**. They can be found in and on our bodies, in the air, in water and on objects around us.

