

Class 6 Curriculum Update

Friday 17th January 2020

Values: Sustainability and Gratitude

“Chocolate: Bean to Bar”

The children have made a great start to this theme; they have already found out where tropical rainforests are in the world, what the different layers of the rainforest are and how the seeds of the cacao tree are the basic ingredient for all chocolate. They have started to look at the process of harvesting, fermenting and drying cacao beans and we will be looking at how these beans are then transported to countries all over the world to be processed to become the chocolate that we know.

As part of the theme, they have written some wonderful postcards from the rainforest and have written a newspaper report based on the disappearance of a plane over the Amazon rainforest, inspired by our class book this term – The Explorer by Katherine Rundell. The children will also be learning about the history of chocolate, from its early origins in the Mayan period, through the journey to Europe in the 16th century and its mass production under the guidance of different philanthropists and Quakers in 19th century Britain.

In science in the coming weeks, we will be thinking about the chemical and physical changes that take place during the chocolate making process and then, later in the term, we will be thinking about the human digestive system and considering whether chocolate is, in fact, good for us. Both of these topics will be explored in greater detail in the second half of the term during our visit to the Think Tank in Birmingham on Thursday the 19th March .

Young Voices

We were delighted to see so many of the class take part in the Young Voices concert this week, especially as this was their last opportunity to do so. They have all worked extremely hard over the last months learning their lines (and moves) and seem to have had a wonderful time.

Despite feeling absolutely exhausted the next day, all of the children came into school with exactly the right attitude and applied themselves all day. Well done!



Homework

Overall, the class are excellent at completing written homework and handing it in on time. It is important that they are also as diligent in completing their reading diaries as required and any assignments, which are set for them, on TT Rockstars or Spelling Shed as these help to consolidate their basic skills. If your child is unable to access the internet for any reason at home, please let us know so that we can arrange for them to have time to complete the work in school.

- As writers we will:**
- write diary entries as an explorer in the rainforest
 - write a persuasive letter on protecting rainforests
 - write a mystery story set in the rainforest
 - recount our learning through reflecting on our experiences
 - write a newspaper report on the discovery of chocolate
 - write a non-chronological report on digestion and a healthy diet
 - write a balanced argument on the banning of chocolate within schools

- As readers we will:**
- check our understanding of the texts we read by asking questions and discussing its meaning;
 - predict what might happen from details stated and implied;
 - summarise the main ideas;
 - identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning;
 - discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader;
 - retrieve and record information from non-fiction.

- In PE we will:**
- develop our gymnastic ability in terms of poise, posture, movement and control
 - practise our ball handling skills and strategic through small games (hockey skills).

- In ICT we will:**
- use virtual reality technology to enhance our creative writing;
 - use a range of apps to support our learning;
 - use the internet to research –improving our word choices when doing searches.

- As artists and designers, we will:**
- design, make and market a chocolate bar
 - observational drawings of chocolate bar packaging
 - use materials and tools with increasing accuracy and confidence.

**Year 6
Spring Term 2020**



- Experiential learning opportunities:**
- * visit to Birmingham Think Tank – science focus on digestion and chemical changes
 - * visit from a local chocolate manufacturer
 - * creating and making own chocolate bar
 - * residential week at Stackpole
 - * three day workshop with West Mercia Police

- As historians we will:**
- explore the importance of chocolate within ancient Mayan and Aztec civilisations
 - identify how chocolate was first introduced to the UK by early explorers
 - understand the role played by leading chocolate manufacturers in early industrialisation.

- As scientists we will:**
- explore how we digest food
 - investigate how to maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle (including a healthy heart)
 - identify how materials change state and consider reversible and irreversible changes.

- As mathematicians we will:**
- focus on developing mental and arithmetic skills
 - develop our understanding of ratio, proportion and percentages through real-life problems
 - develop use of mathematical language and facts.

- As linguists, we will:**
- learn new vocabulary in Japanese
 - explore aspects of Japanese culture and customs.

- As geographers we will:**
- identify the key climate zones and where they are
 - use maps and atlases to identify countries with rainforests environments
 - understand the significance of rainforest s
 - learn how the Fairtrade organisation has benefitted communities.

- As musicians we will:**
- write and perform compositions based on our memories;
 - listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.

- As global citizens we will:**
- act as role models for younger children and support them within the school;
 - discuss and consider the impact of drugs and alcohol on individuals and society
 - consider the role of philanthropists in modern day

Dates for the diary

3rd Feb – Stackpole residential visit

2nd, 3rd and 4th March – “Star” Programme

19th March – Curriculum visit to Think Tank Birmingham

2nd April – Class assembly

Star Programme

This programme will take place over three consecutive afternoons and will be delivered by West Mercia Police. It discusses the effects of drugs and alcohol and allows the children to explore a range of different scenarios and how they would respond.

I have attached a copy of the planning web above for those of you who may not have seen it on the school web-site - this outlines in a little more detail what we plan to cover as part of the “Chocolate: Bean to Bar” theme. Please let me know if there is anything that you’d like to discuss regarding the plans or if you have any particular knowledge or interests related to the theme that may be useful to share with the children.

The class will also be working on promoting their Enterprise businesses again over the next few weeks, so please watch out for another after-school sale in the week before half term.

From Mrs Lacey, Mr Batstone and the Year 6 Team .