



Fantastic Forests

Class 1 – EYFS

Our topic of Fantastic Forests will be full of opportunities to develop our Understanding of the World and our Communication and Language skills through vocabulary development and fact finding. Throughout the topic we will have a book to match each mini two-week topic that will be our starting point to all our work.

We will begin our topic by exploring the plants that grow in the forest. We will go on a nature walk to collect forest treasures. Through lots of investigating we will explore the textures, shapes, and properties of leaves, seeds and flowers that we found and this will lead onto developing our vocabulary of natural objects. In Expressive Art and Design we will look at the artist Andy Goldsworthy. He creates beautiful land art and sculptures from natural materials in the environment. We will use this to inspire our own shape and pattern artwork made from our forest treasures leading onto creating some of our own natural sculptures. We will create our work outdoors and use the environment around us.

We will then move onto learning about creatures in the forest. We will explore the geography of our local environment by finding out about animals that live in forests near us. We will use new vocabulary to find out facts about nocturnal animals, names of habitats and what these animals need to eat. We are hoping that we may have a visit from a real hedgehog which will lead onto lots of shared writing.

Our next mini-topic will focus on how the forest changes in Autumn. We will explore the changes of the season by investigating the colour of leaves through games, play and creative work. We will discover which animals hibernate and what they need to do to prepare for winter. We will go on another nature walk and look at changes that have occurred in the forest since our last walk. We will make messy maps of our walk and the discoveries we made along the way. We will bring some history into our learning by learning about how we, our family and our local environment of Tow Law has changed over the years.

After half term our Fantastic Forest topic will move onto learning about forests in other countries. We will look at rainforests and compare the similarities and differences between these forest environments and those that we have here at home. What might we need to survive in these forests if we were going on an expedition? What might we see along the way? We will talk about how we need to look after our planet in order to protect these special places and the creatures that live there.

Throughout the topic we will be doing weekly PE lessons. We will link these to our forest topic by moving like some of the creatures we are learning about. We will play games that develop our spatial awareness, balance and coordination. We will go on a Bear Hunt in the forest moving in different ways through the many environments we discover through the famous book.

In RE our topics are Myself; where we talk about our name and belonging to our family, Welcome; where we talk about Baptism and being welcomed into God's family, and Birthdays; where we learn about Jesus' birthday and what that means for us.

