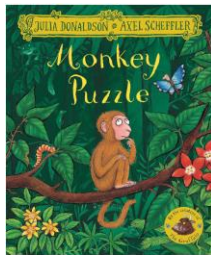




Beech Newsletter

January 2024

We have started the new year off with a great topic the children are already really enjoying. We are looking at Jungles and Rainforests. During this half term we will be looking at different animals in the rainforest, plants that can be found there and what the weather is like there. We will be comparing the animals found in rainforests with animals we find in the UK. We look at *Monkey Puzzle* by Julia Donaldson and *Jungle Jamboree* by Jo Epsom about a party in the jungle for all the animals large and small.



In **Maths** this half term the children will be learning about shapes with 4 sides and how combining 2 squares makes a rectangle. The maths then moves swiftly onto mass and capacity – lots of fun to be had in water trays and then onto learning more numbers, concentrating on 6, 7 and 8.

In **Phonics Reception** children have progressed onto learning digraphs (2 letters making 1 sound), for example ea, ie, oo, and an odd trigraph such as the igh sound. We will continue to send home a review sheet each week for you to spend some time with your child recapping the new sounds. **Nursery** children will continue to focus on hearing sounds, rhymes and oral blending. This sets the foundations for learning phonics when they move into Reception.

Reading

Reception children will continue to bring their reading books home with them. They will have read these books in school already so should be able to read them with some confidence. The children will continue to read their reading book three times a week in class and then sent home on a Wednesday. Books will be changed again on a Monday. In class the sessions focus on decoding, prosody (expression) and comprehension.

PE sessions will continue on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please send your child in PE kit on these days. This half term we will concentrate on gross motor skills learning how to throw and catch different size balls including rolling them with control.

Topic

When looking at Jungles the children will look at where we find jungles on a map of the world. We will talk about how they are found in parts of the world where it is warmer but there is a lot of rain. As already mentioned we will look at the animals and plants found in the jungle. We will look at where they grow and where animals are found in different layers of the jungle.



There will be lots of opportunities for the children to print and create in this topic. We look at camouflage and the different textures of animal's skin. We will make different animals and give the children chance to use their own 'flare'.

In Science the children look at winter and what is happening outside. We will compare this with what we saw in Autumn and predict what will happen in spring. The children think about what clothes they need to wear to go outside and why they need to wear them.

PHSE

Dreams and Goals is the title for this half term. We think about what we would like to achieve and how we can get there.

This half term has Chinese New Year in it so we will celebrate this looking at where China is and the dragon that represents this year.



Homework

Homework will be sent out as a challenge sheet for the children to pick from throughout the ½ term. A phonics review sheet will be sent home on a Friday to consolidate the weeks learning. Any comments can be shared in the learning journal.