

KIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER 2024



YEAR 6

February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to welcome you to the start of our fourth term. We are really excited for the term ahead.

Our Topic

In Term 4, we will be learning all about 'The Amazon'. In this unit, children find out about the Amazon region of South America, considering what it is like to live in the region as well as how it is being damaged and how it can be protected.

In Science, we will be learning about 'Our Changing World', and in RE we will be looking into themes based around "Beautiful World, Wonderful God", which will include Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

Maths

In Maths lessons, children will be learning about: fractions, capacity and volume, ratio and proportion, translation and reflection as well as different forms of problem solving.

In order to support your child, you could look at the use of numbers in everyday life: cooking using fractions to measure the ingredients and using time in every day experiences.

It would really support your child if they were confident with their times tables. This would help them in all areas of maths. This term your child needs to learn the: corresponding division facts for the times tables up to 12 x 12; multiplication and division problems involving multiples of 10; and multiplication and division problems involving multiples of 100.

English

In English, we will be learning about: persuasive texts, balanced arguments, explanation texts and non-chronological reports.

In order to support your child, you could look at the different information texts that are available about farming and look at different forms of persuasive texts – perhaps considering advertisements in magazines or in newspapers, or online.

The spellings that your child will be learning this term will be sent home each week; it would be really useful if you could help your child to learn these spellings.

Please encourage your child to read at home every day and ask them questions about what they are reading at every opportunity. We aim to change books regularly. Children are able to quiz their books using Read2Succeed at home.

Your child may bring a water bottle to school. Please ensure the bottle is clearly named and only contains water.

PE

Our PE day is on Friday. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit. For outdoor games, the children need plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, a plain sweatshirt and trainers. For indoor PE, the children need plain black/navy shorts, a plain white t-shirt and plimsolls. Every item needs to be clearly labelled and in a bag that will remain in school every day. Kits will be taken home to be washed at the end of each term. No items should be taken home during the term.

Homework

Homework is set on a Friday and will continue to support your child's education. It will include weekly maths and English activities. If there are ever any problems about the homework, please come and see us as soon as possible.

Important Dates

19.02.24 – First day of term 4
05.03.24 - 08.03.24 – School Book Fair
07.03.24 – World Book Day
15.03.24 – Comic Relief (more information to follow)
28.03.24 – Last day of term 4
15.04.24 – First day of term 5

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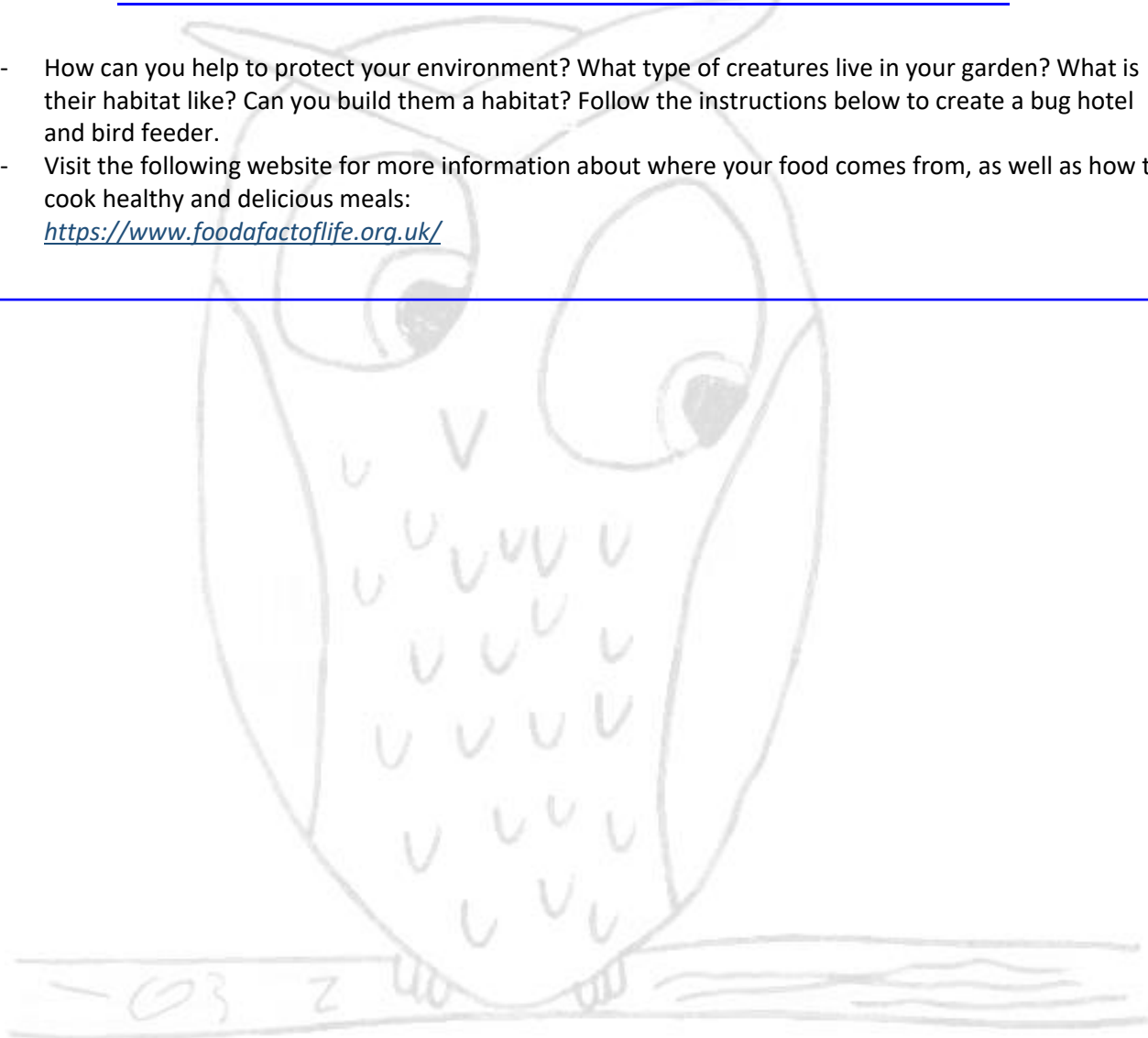
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Yours sincerely

Miss Roberts Mr Stanfield Miss Wilkinson
Year 6 Class Teachers

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING THIS TERM:

- How can you help to protect your environment? What type of creatures live in your garden? What is their habitat like? Can you build them a habitat? Follow the instructions below to create a bug hotel and bird feeder.
- Visit the following website for more information about where your food comes from, as well as how to cook healthy and delicious meals:
<https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/>





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Things you could use (you don't need all of them):

- Old wooden pallets
- Strips of wood
- Straw
- Moss
- Dry leaves
- Woodchips
- Old terracotta pots
- Old roofing tiles
- Bricks, preferably those with holes through them
- Bark
- Pine cones
- Sand
- Soil
- Hollow bamboo canes
- Dead hollow stems cut from shrubs and herbaceous plants
- A sheet of roofing felt
- Planks of wood
- Whatever else you can find - preferably natural materials



Step-by-step bug hotel guide

1

Choose a suitable site. It needs to be level and the ground firm.

You'll get different residents depending on where you place your hotel, as some like cool, damp conditions and others (such as solitary bees) prefer the sun. If you have vegetable beds, keep it a good distance away from them.

The basic structure. You will need a strong, stable framework that's no more than a metre high!

Old wooden pallets are perfect for a large hotel as they're sturdy and come with ready-made gaps. Start by laying some bricks on the ground as sturdy corners. Leave some spaces in between the bricks - try creating an H-shape. Add three or four layers of wooden pallets on top of your bricks. If you leave larger ends, you're more likely to attract hedgehogs.

You can also make a smaller structure, depending on the wood and space you have.

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2. **Fill the gaps.** The idea is to provide all sorts of different nooks and crannies, crevices, tunnels and cosy beds.

Include:

- dead wood and loose bark for creepy crawlies like beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice
- holes and small tubes (not plastic) for solitary bees made out of bamboo, reeds and drilled logs
- larger holes with stones and tiles, which provide the cool, damp conditions frogs and toads like – if you put it in the centre you'll give them a frost-free place to spend the winter (they'll help eat slugs)
- dry leaves, sticks or straw for ladybirds (they eat aphids) and other beetles and bugs
- corrugated cardboard for lacewings (their larvae eat aphids, too)
- dry leaves which mimic a natural forest floor
- you can even put a hedgehog box into the base of the hotel.



3. **Add a 'roof'.** When you think you've gone high enough, making sure the stack remains stable, put a roof on to keep it relatively dry. Use old roof tiles or some old planks covered with roofing felt.

You could even give it a 'green' or 'brown' roof by putting a bit of rubble or gritty soil on top. Only plants that love dry conditions cope up there, but some wild flower seeds could arrive on the breeze and take root.

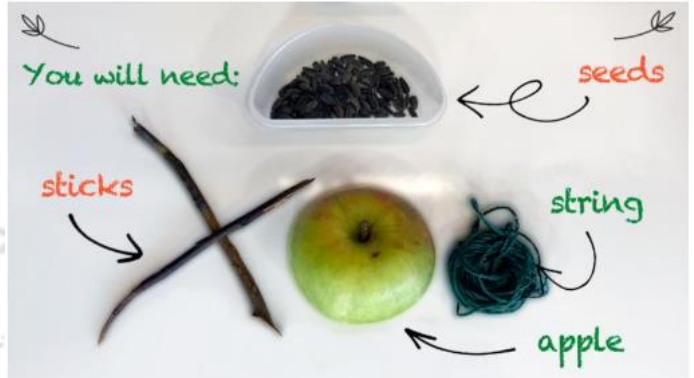


<https://youtu.be/J7HtYFWPqEs>



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How to make a bird feeder



Step 1

Thread the string through the hole in the apple.

Step 2

Make an 'X' with the sticks and tie them to the string so the apple sits on top.

Step 3

Make a pattern by pushing the seeds into the apple, then it's ready to hang up!



Step 1

Mush together the seeds, lard, cheese and raisins in a mixing bowl.

Step 2

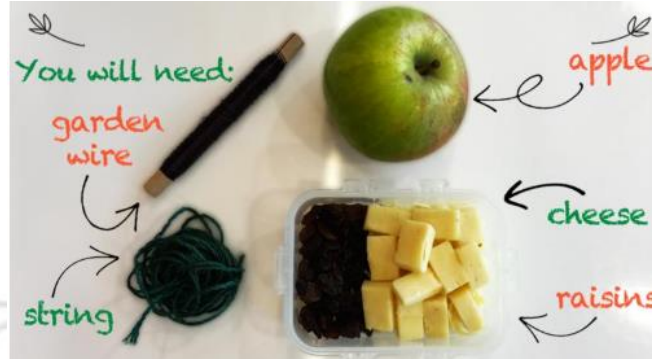
Tie a string to your pine cone then cover it with the mix. Don't forget to fill the holes!

Step 3

Pop it in the fridge until set, then it's ready for the birds!



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Step 1

Ask a grown-up to cut cubes of apple and cheese.

Step 2

Be very careful and ask a grown-up to help you thread fruit and cheese onto the wire like a necklace.

Step 3

Make a hoop with the wire and tie it to some string. Ready!

How to Make an Amazon Rainforest in a Shoebox

Create your own 'biome in a box'.

You may also like to include labels to describe the different layers.

You will need:

- shoebox (adult size)
- paintbrush
- green and brown paint (blue paint is optional)
- fallen leaves/different shades of green crêpe paper
- ruler
- brown paper/card
- green string/green pipe cleaners
- colouring pens/pencils
- natural objects e.g. pebbles, stones, twigs, dried leaves
- sticky tape
- scissors
- glue
- animal templates (optional)





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What To Do

1. Begin by painting the inside of your shoebox. Paint the lid and sides green and paint the base of your box brown. You may want to add the Amazon river too.
2. Wait for the paint to dry.
3. Measure the height of your box from the base to the top of the open lid. Then, use this measurement when drawing tree templates on the brown paper/ card. (These will be the tallest trees and will form the emergent layer.)
4. Carefully, cut out the trees and stick them to the back of your box.
5. Scrunch up different shades of green crêpe paper to create the leaves or alternatively use real, fallen leaves and stick them to the trees. (You could also stick leaves across the top edge of your box.)
6. Create the trees for the canopy layer. These should be made slightly smaller but need to form a roof over the plants below.
7. Create the smaller trees and plants using large, fallen leaves, such as ferns, for the understorey layer. Alternatively, to make your own ferns cut out individual leaves from plain paper or crêpe paper. Then, tie them together using string or sticky tape to form a bouquet.
8. Add these smaller trees and plants to your box to form the understorey layer.
9. Collect some objects from nature including small stones, twigs and dried leaves and stick them in place on the base of your box to create the forest floor.
10. Use green string or green pipe cleaners to create vines. Twist them around your trees and stick them from one side of the box to the other using sticky tape.
11. Draw your own rainforest animals (or use the templates included). Stick them in the correct part of your rainforest scene. You may even have some rainforest animal figures that you would like to include.



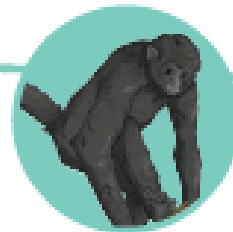


The Layers of the Amazon Rainforest



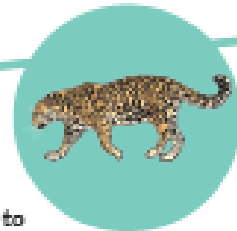
Emergent Layer

Usually broad-leaved, evergreen hardwood trees can be found here. You might see birds, such as harpy eagles and macaws. Butterflies and some species of bats also live in this layer.



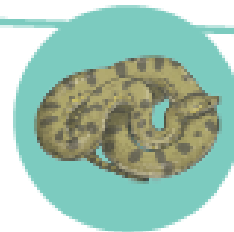
Canopy Layer

Trees in this layer usually have smooth, oval, pointed leaves. Trees in this layer form a roof over the plants below. Many animals live in this layer as there is plenty of food. For example, red-eyed tree frogs, sloths, emerald tree boa, toucans and monkeys.



Understorey Layer

Trees in this layer don't grow any taller than 4 metres. This area is home to animals like the jaguar and some smaller animals, such as bats, insects, lizards and the hummingbird. Very little sunlight reaches this layer so plants have to grow larger leaves to try and reach the sunlight.



Forest Floor

Very few plants grow in this dark environment. Leaves and other debris decompose very quickly. Animals such as tapirs, caimans and anacondas live here.



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RAINFOREST LAYERS

