

PE

We will be developing our coordination, agility and fitness through cricket and athletics this term. In cricket we will focus on our ability to bowl accurately, and in athletics we will develop our ability to jump, run and throw.

Computing

We will begin to draw together all our knowledge of design, word-processing, publishing and photography to produce a leavers book, recalling our time at Bedwell. We will include information about favourite activities, experiences and friends, as well as lots of pictures.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...

Science

Our next science unit will see us exploring light. We will explore how we see things, how light travels and the reasons why we can't see around corners. We will investigate shadows in more detail, planning and carrying out our own experiments to discover what factors affect the size of a shadow. Finally we will learn about refraction, and the way that this makes rainbows, lenses and prisms possible.

The Arts

Building on our trip to the National Gallery last term, we will be exploring Impressionist art over the next few weeks, investigating the ways in which artists like Degas, Renoir and Monet captured light and movement in their work. We will then experiment with applying these techniques in our own work as we create circus-themed paintings.

Maths

Year 6 will be working hard to revisit and revise the key maths knowledge we have worked on over the last year, so that we are as prepared as possible for our SATs in May. We will continue to practice our arithmetic skills every day (particularly those tricky fraction, percentage and division calculations), and will be working to apply what we know to new problem solving situations, often involving money and measures. We will be brushing-up on our understanding of time, angles and co-ordinates, and will have opportunities to suggest key areas that we would like to revise in our last few lessons before our tests. Then, once all that is out of the way, we have some fun work on nets and pie charts to look forward to.

Humanities

Geography - Rainforests

We will be learning about rainforest environments this term, discovering what makes them special, where they are found and what it's like to live there. We will plot rainforests on a variety of maps, linking their locations to the tropics, and will compare them with other environments we know about, such as deserts, mountains and local forests. We will also learn more about the different layers of the rainforest, comparing life on the forest floor with life in the treetop canopy.

We will then focus in on the Amazon rainforest in particular, investigating the plants, animals, climate and indigenous people of this incredible area and discovering the effect that humans are having on the habitat.

English

We will be using a *Circus* theme to inspire our writing across a variety of genres and forms. We will begin by exploring characterisation and setting descriptions, developing the techniques that we use to create cohesion and exploring new vocabulary. After that, we will shift our focus to discussion and newspaper reports, revising the key features of these non-fiction texts and developing our use of conjunctions and adverbials to link ideas. Across all of these genres, we will be striving to improve the way we edit and redraft our writing, aiming to produce top-quality final pieces that we're all proud of. Finally, we will continue to develop our grammar knowledge, revising all of the rules and terminology we have covered so Year 6 are ready for their SATs in May.

THE BIG TOP

EAGLES & FALCONS - SUMMER 2025



PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

While we're using Publisher to create leavers' books, think about how else you could use IT to capture memories - video could be a great way to do this, and there's a nice BBC Bitesize guide at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/zyb72hv

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Play around with torches, mirrors and reflection at home - can we use a mirror to see around the corner? Which clothes and materials reflect light best in the dark? How many different sources of light can you find around the house?
- Make shadow puppets and think about the way that these are created.

The Arts

Have a go at creating your own Impressionist pieces - there are lots of ideas to get you started on the fantastic Tate Kids website at www.tate.org.uk/kids If you'd like to see some world-famous art for yourselves, remember that the National Gallery and Tate Galleries are free to enter - find out more at nationalgallery.org.uk and tate.org.uk

Maths

Quick recall of tables facts continues to be vital for so much of the maths we do, so keep practicing at home as much as possible. Focus on one table at a time and try:

- Making-up rhymes to help remember number facts ("4 x 6 is 24, bears growl and lions roar!")
- Looking for numbers in that table in the world around you - on doors, car number plates, in phone numbers or when you're out shopping.
- Writing-out tables with finger paints, chalk or water-on-tarmac, or make them from playdoh.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Encourage your child to read and talk to them about what's happened so far and what might happen next.
- Spelling homework goes out every Thursday, so please help your child to learn these. You can find more advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf
- Have a go at learning to juggle (or another circus skill) - and collect lots of great language to describe your movements. It's not thrown, it's *flung*, *lobbed* or *hurled*. It's not difficult, it's *demanding*, *arduous* or *problematic*!

Humanities

- There are loads of great documentary series that explore rainforest habitats and are well worth a watch - Planet Earth, Green Planet and Tropic of Capricorn are all available on BBC iplayer at the moment, with some great episodes on the Amazon and other rainforest environments around the world.
- The Better Planet Education site is packed with easy to grasp information on rainforests and the animals that are found in these regions - get started at betterplaneteducation.org.uk
- The BBC Bitesize site also has lots of images, clips and information about life in the Amazon (and the rest of Brazil) - head to www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvwmjvh to get started.

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