



Churchfields Junior School

Curriculum Newsletter — **Year 4** Autumn

The information below is designed to tell you what your child will be learning this term in each curriculum area. We have complemented each subject with suggestions as to how you can support your child outside of school with their learning.



English

This term we are learning:

- *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson
- Short film unit
- *The Vanishing Rainforest* by Richard Platt
- Biographies of famous scientists
- David Attenborough documentaries
- Spelling patterns and grammar skills

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>
- Read range of material (non-fiction and fiction) – It is important to discuss the books during and after reading
- Handwriting practice
- Learn weekly spellings: <http://bit.ly/CJSSPELL-LIST>
- Children listen to parents read and share ideas
- Encourage your child to write whenever possible. This could be a diary of their weekend, or even help with the shopping list!
- Check out some biographies of famous historical figures: <http://www.ducksters.com/biography/>
- Watch some David Attenborough documentaries: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008044n/episodes/guide/> (be careful when watching videos if your child is sensitive about animals as prey!)

Mathematics

This term we are learning:

- Number, place value
- All tables up to 12 x 12
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division
- Decimals
- Fractions
- Word problems
- Tables and line graphs
- Symmetry

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Identify the value of different digits in a number and compare and order numbers based on their place value.
- Use the 4 operations to solve every day problems e.g. working out the cost of multiple items when shopping. Can you child explain their method to you?
- Discuss maths in everyday life – e.g. weights and measures when cooking, sharing between family members, reading timetables when going on a journeys.
- Go on a Maths Walk and take photos of the maths they see
- Visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>
- Explore games and investigations using ideas from <http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage/> as well as the games on our school website
- Practise our Mathematics Challenge: www.churchfieldsjunior.com/learning/maths
- Look for symmetry all around you: visit an art gallery, find symmetry in your own home, how many flags can you find that are symmetrical?

Humanities

This term we are learning:

- Rainforest
- Country study of Brazil
- Christmas
- Judaism

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Explore Brazil using Google Earth
- Practise using a map/ atlas and discuss what the keys and symbols mean
- Where do you think most people would live?
- Visit <http://www.mbgnet.net/sets/rforest/index.htm>
- Visit <http://www.rainforestanimals.net/>
- Visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/judaism/>

Science

This term we are learning:

- Living things and their habitats
- Sound

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Visit the Natural History Museum
- Explore <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildlife/>
- Discuss different types of animal habitats and the organisms that live there and what they eat
- Visit the library and research interesting animals, their classifications, food chains, adaptation and survival methods (be careful when watching videos if your child is sensitive about animals as prey!)
- Explore how sound is made. What happens when you put rice on a drum?



PE / Dance

This term we are learning:

- Invasion games (handball, netball and football)
- *Deforestation* dance linked to Rainforest topic

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Practise throwing and catching
- Try a taster sports session at a local club
- Shoot hoops at a home or in the park
- Practise choreography for rainforest dance at home



Music

This term we are learning:

- Rhythm
- Singing
- Percussion
- Written music

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Listen to a variety of music
- Learn lyrics for Christmas Assembly
- Sing along to your favourite tunes in the car!
- Play *Don't Clap This One Back* at home
- Parents, visit <http://www.youthmusic.org.uk/what-we-do/our-research/best-way-for-my-child-to-learn-music.html?gclid=CLq9hliH7McCFRI6G-wodskglFg/> to download a guide on how best to teach your children Music at home.
- Listen to music about animals, such as *Carnival of the Animals – Saint-Saens* (classical), *Ride Your Donkey – The Tennors* (reggae), *Leave My Kitten Alone - Little Willie John* (rock and roll).

Art

This term we are learning:

- Costume design for Brazilian Carnival
- Henri Rousseau
- Observational drawing of leaves
- Triple printing

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Visit Tate Modern or a local art gallery
- Sit together in a park and sketch what you see
- Visit the library and research Henri Rousseau or Ruth Daniels
- Try painting your own version of Ruth Daniels or Henri Rousseau's work

PSHE / Philosophy

This term we are learning:

- Friendships
- Philosophy

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Discuss current affairs – First News is a child friendly website: <http://www.firstnews.co.uk/>
- Discuss ambitions / talents
- Discuss questions of an enquiring nature such as: should we have best friends?
- Take a walk together and just talk!

Computing / DT

This term we are learning:

- We are co-authors
- E-Safety
- Computer skills

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Create online storybooks: <http://storybird.com>
- Create customised avatars and add voices to them: <http://www.voki.com>
- Create personalised websites. You can add photos, photo slide-shows, upload files and much more: <http://www.weebly.com>
- Create animated videos: <http://goanimate.com>
- Guides to help children stay safe on the internet: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe/>



French

This term we are learning:

- Greetings
- Numbers
- Date
- Speaking skills

Suggested activities to support learning:

- Ask your child to teach you what they know
- Put signs for French vocabulary around the house
- Can you introduce yourself to a member of your family?
- Search 'Alain le lait' on Youtube for lots of songs practising simple vocabulary in French such as colours, greetings and numbers
- Visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/index_flash.shtml to practise your French speaking skills at home



We hope you find this information useful, as well as interesting. Please let us know if you have any other suggested activities to support your child with their learning so that we can include additional information for other parents/carers in the future.