



# Beech Class Year 5 & 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new school year in Beech Class. We hope you had a good summer and are looking forward to an exciting year full of new adventures and challenges.

**TEACHERS:** For those of you new to Beech Class, we have 4 teachers in year 5&6 who all teach Literacy and Numeracy plus their own speciality subjects. This enables your children to work at a more specialised level in their foundation subjects as well as getting used to different people, groupings and locations which will start to prepare them for secondary school.

Mrs Marchant (Humanities & RE) and Mr Vaughton (Science) will be working the first half of the week and Mrs Sharma (Art & Design & Music) and Mrs Jeffery (French & ICT) will be working the second half. Mr Biggs will teach PE on Wednesday afternoons and Mr Watson will be teaching guitars to Year 5 on Thursday afternoons and to those year 6s who have chosen to continue. Children will need their clearly named PE kits on Wednesday but we recommend they keep them in school throughout the week and take them home at the weekends as necessary.

**TOPIC:** This term our topic is The Rainforest - its importance, its plants, people and animals. After half term we will be looking at Mayan Civilization. Information about this can be found on the attached sheet. We will be following the National Curriculum for Maths and English as well as preparing Year 6 for their end of Key Stage 2 SATs.

**HOMEWORK:** Children will be asked to record their homework in their planners each week to help you know what has been asked. Each homework should take no longer than 30 minutes and will be a chance to consolidate and practice what the children have learnt during the week. If children find something they don't understand in their homework, please record this in their books or let us know. **Maths** and **English** (SPaG -spelling, punctuation and grammar) will be set each Thursday and collected the following Wednesday for year 6 and set on Tuesday and due the following Monday for year 5. **Times table** practice will be sent home weekly and tested with times table challenges. **Spellings** will be set and tested on Mondays for year 5 and Tuesday for year 6. **Reading** continues to be an essential part of children's learning both at home and school although, as many of the children are now independent readers, we do not expect parents to listen to their children read as regularly. However, please encourage your child to read at home regularly and take the chance to discuss their books and sign their planner when they have read.

**EQUIPMENT:** As always, all the equipment your children need is available to them at school. However, if your child has a preferred handwriting pen or would like to bring their own equipment, this is, of course, welcomed.

**DATES:** There are many exciting dates for your diary which we will send as needed, but please note that it is essential for your child to be in school for SATS week which is May 8th-12th 2017.

As always, thank you for all of your support and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to come and talk to us.

With our very best wishes,

Mrs Sharma, Mr Vaughton, Mrs Marchant and Mrs Jeffery.

# RAINFOREST

Beech Class  
Autumn Term 2016



As Historians we will be:

Learning about the Mayan civilization. We will be finding out how they lived and considering the possible reasons for the fall of the Mayan Empire.

As Geographers we will be:

Learning about the Amazonian rainforest.

Investigating its structure and ecosystems.

Researching the animals and plants that can be found there.

Identifying the effects of deforestation.

As Scientists we will be:

Learning about living things, their habitats and different ways to investigate them.

In RE we will be:

Considering beliefs in action in both Christianity and Hinduism.

In PHSE & Citizenship we will be looking at ways we can save the rainforest.

As Artists and Designers we will be:

Creating a rainforest in the classroom.

Looking at animals which have patterns and colour for camouflage or for show and making animal prints.

Making Mayan style tribal costumes and headdresses inspired by rainforest animals.

As Musicians we will be:

using percussion to create improvisations based on a rainstorm.  
Learning, singing and performing songs about the rainforest.