



Welcome back to another exciting half term!

This half term we will be using the topic "Let's Explore" as the stimulus for our learning. We will be thinking about different environments around the world. Our first visit will be to the rainforest, followed by polar regions and icy places. This will lead nicely into our exploration of Christmas!

Here is an outline of the key objectives we will be covering in each area of learning:

Personal, social and emotional development – As we progress through the topic, children will have the opportunity to share their own knowledge, and ask questions of others. They will learn the importance of listening to people's ideas to further their understanding, and will continue to develop their confidence in speaking to both individuals and small groups. They will also be given chances to explore how their actions and choices affect others. They will be encouraged to negotiate to solve problems – our useful catchphrase is "Stop, I don't like that." Please praise your child if you hear them using this at home!

Physical Development – This is a key focus this half term, so please continue to work with your child on writing their name in our school script. We will be sending home a name card to help with this – you can copy it, trace it with a whiteboard pen or even put it in a shallow container of rice/sand etc and trace it with your finger. Also encourage your child to develop their gross motor skills by taking part in activities such as pushing, sweeping, rolling, climbing and hanging from monkey bars. Children will continue to learn to hold their pencil between their thumb and two fingers, and continue to explore which hand is their dominant hand. They will be given the opportunity to experiment with different ways of moving and travelling, and alongside this they will be expected to consider how to move and travel safely without the need for adult intervention. In our Funky Fingers sessions, most children will begin to learn some simple letter shapes. They will continue to take part in PE sessions on two out of three Thursdays, so please ensure that you keep an eye on the timetable and send them in kit on these days.

Communication and Language – We will be exploring fiction and non-fiction books and answering questions about what they have read or heard. Some of these will be "Why..." questions, which can be tricky, so please practise these whilst you share stories at home. We will also be learning lots of new vocabulary including *tropical*, *humid*, *temperate*, *deforestation*, *Inuit*, *conservation* and *polar*. You could research these at home and ask your child to teach you the actions and rhymes that we use to help us remember what they mean.

Literacy – This half term the children will begin to use what they learn during their daily phonics sessions to start to write with meaning. This will be a chance for them to apply their learning about letters and their sounds, and to explore different types of writing with a focus on labelling. To start with, this will focus on initial sounds, such as l for leg, then we will move onto initial and final (lg), and finally all three sounds. We will be continuing to explore rhyming, alliteration and individual letter sounds, as well as moving on to reading these in simple words. Your child now has a reading book, so please remember to try to read five times a week in order to progress through the reading challenge (all five reads must be recorded in their reading message book).

Mathematics – In Maths this half term, we will extend our knowledge of numbers to 5. We will learn to subitise (recognise quantities without counting), read o'clock times, recognise shapes with up to 5 sides and corners, make up to 5p using different coins, and explore the number pairs that work together to make numbers to 5. We say "3 and 2 is 5" when introducing number sentences, so please use this language if you can when practising at home.

Understanding of the world – We will be encouraging the children to share about any family customs and traditions this half term, such as Halloween traditions, birthday celebrations and Christmas customs. If there is anything that your family does that you would like to share, please post on Tapestry and we will give your child the opportunity to talk to us or a small group about it if they wish. In Forest School, the children will continue to learn the ways we stay safe in the forest, and will explore the similarities and differences of living things. We will be focusing on ways to stay safe on the internet whilst researching about different places, and the children are beginning to access learning games and stories more independently on the computer too. We will also be continuing to learn about people in our community, so if you know of a ‘superhero’ who didn’t speak to us last half term, please let us know! Our Explorers topic is also a great way to compare environments, so if you go on any rainy walks encourage your child to think about what is different between our local area, the rainforest and polar regions.

Expressive Arts and Design – Our art themes for this half term are junk modelling and painting. The children will learn how to make a junk model animal, create a paint wash silhouette and follow instructions to draw different animals as well. We have a rainforest café role play as well as our home corners, and the children will be able to experience eating out for dinner (even if restaurants are closed outside of school!)

We hope that you are enjoying sharing your child’s Learning Journey online using Tapestry. If you have not yet accessed this, please try to do so as soon as possible or email adminoffice@purbrook-inf.hants.sch.uk and we will contact you. Please put tapestry in the message header.

It would be great for more parents to add their contributions about what your child has learnt at home – this could be cooking, painting, reading or sharing something they have learnt at school with you. Thank you to the many parents who are already doing this. We will try to respond to all of your posts with a comment or a ‘like’, but if we are unable to respond please know that we value every contribution as it gives us a great insight into your child’s interests at home, which we can build on and develop during school.

If your child needs to self-isolate, we will also be using tapestry to set home learning tasks.

Home learning challenges:

You can choose which ones you try – please share them on Tapestry!

- **Chat:** Talk about what you would bring with you if you were an explorer. This may include clothing, activities or even just items which are special to you. Your grown-up could post the list on tapestry when it is complete!
- **Play:** At school, we will have a Rainforest Café and a Costa role play. Try setting up a café or restaurant at home and serving some delicious pretend meals. You could even use money to pay for each meal too!
- **Read:** Find a story about a place that you would like to explore. It could be about the rainforest or a cold icy place like we are exploring in school, or it could be anywhere else in the world!



Reminders

PE Kit / Forest School

Please make sure that your child comes into school on a Thursday wearing either PE Kit or Forest School clothing, depending on the timetable.

Coats, hats, scarves and gloves

Your child needs a coat in school every day now, even if it appears sunny. They are able to play outside even when it’s raining! We also ask that coats, hats, scarves and gloves are all named so we can help ensure that they come home with your child.