

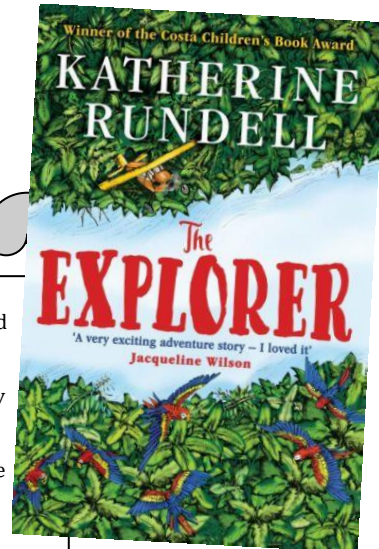
Elders Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter (Years 5 + 6)

Dear Elders' children and parents,

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and been able to enjoy some of the warmer weather we have had between the rainy patches! We are very excited to get to know you all better this year and really get stuck into learning lots of new things.

Our Topic for this term is "Are Rainforests Resourceful?"

In **English**, we will be looking at a variety of texts including different genres. We will begin with "The River" By Valerie Bloom - this is a poem and will help wet the children's appetite for our new topic. We will then move onto The Explorer by K. Rundell. Over this term, we will cover poetry, narrative, non-chronological reports and persuasive writing.



Blurb

The boy sitting in the cockpit gripped his seat and held his breath as the plane roared and climbed into the arms of the sky.

From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him.

He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him.

As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice.

He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small. Except, it seems, someone has been there before them...

In **Maths** we will be starting on Place Value for two weeks and then moving onto the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and finally fractions. We will cover long multiplication and Year 6 will also learn long division. Look out on the Elders Page on the Tansley website for more information on how to do these methods when we begin to learn them. We have knowledge organisers on each topic covered to support learning at home. It is **VITAL** that you keep revising your times tables on TTRockstars because this knowledge will help you with your long multiplication and short/long division and for year 6, this will mean you get lots of marks on your SATS Mental Maths paper 😊

Place Value Grid

M	HTH	TTH	TH	H	T	U	Tenths	Hundredths
Millions	Hundred thousands	Ten thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Units	Tenths	Hundredths

This Place Value Grid is used a LOT in lessons and it is a good idea to become familiar with it and where each value sits.

Reading in Elders Class

Children are expected to read a minimum of 4 times a week and encouraged to read both independently **and** to an adult in order to check comprehension. If children read 4 times a week at home, they will receive a raffle ticket and be entered into our prize draw to win a free book of their choosing! Please record **all** reading in the purple reading diary. Children will be able to change their reading books at their own discretion once completing a book. Please can children bring their reading book and diary to school each day as we do a form of reading daily in school, whether that be a teacher reading to the children, guided reading or their own individual reading.

Spellings

Spellings at Tansley are being reviewed and the children will be completing a diagnostic test to ensure their weekly spellings are the best fit for each individual child's progress. Please revise the Year 3/4 and 5/6 Common Exception Spelling word list throughout the year – this can begin now while we wait for the diagnostic test results. We will have spot tests on these throughout the year. The children have already been learning these in school. We suggest to take 5 at a time and practising them until known. This should be done as well as any other weekly spellings once they are given out and the diagnostic testing complete.

PE

Children will be having their P.E. lesson on a Tuesday afternoon and will need to come to school in their P.E kit on this day. P.E kit is trainers, black shorts or joggers (depending on the weather) and a red or white T-shirt (no football shirts). Children should bring a red or black jumper if needed (no hoodies please due to safety).

Jewellery will need to be removed for health and safety reasons, so it is better if removed at home if possible. If not, it must be covered by medical tape by the child before coming to school.

Swimming: Swimming will be on Thursdays and will commence on 21st September until February half term. Swimming Trunks for boys and a one-piece costume for girls. A dark colour is preferable for both please.

Times Tables

Times Tables will be tested on Fridays, beginning on Friday 15th September 2023. This may be on paper format or on TTRockstars. Please ensure your child practises using their TTRockstars login available in the front of their purple reading diary. Keep an eye out for challenges being set!

Included on the Elders' section of the website are some Knowledge Organisers which cover different subject areas to support your child's learning at home as well as the optional homework grid.

Key Maths Definitions:

- **Digit:** Any of the numerals from 0 to 9
- **Number:** An arithmetical value, expressed by a word, symbol, or figure, representing a particular quantity and used in counting and making calculations:
- **Value:** The worth of each digit depending on where it lies within the number. E.g. the value of the 4 in the number 84 521 is '4 thousand'
- **Factor:** Numbers that divide exactly into another number. For example, the factors of 8 are: 1, 2, 4, 8. Factors can be shown in pairs.
- **Multiple:** These are just like extended times tables. E.g. The multiples of 2 are all the numbers in the 2 times table, such as 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 and so on.

Topic

Our Topic "Are Rainforests Resourceful?" is a cross-curricular topic.

I am sure that this will prove to be a very exciting topic. We look forward to learning more about the rainforests and their importance in our world. We will use our Geography skills to locate rainforests on maps and also discover about the sustainability of our rainforests. It will influence the subject matter for English tasks as well as the Voluntary homework tasks in the homework grid. Knowledge organisers which support the topic can be found on the website (See Elders class page under "Homework" section).

Science

In Science this term, we will be exploring the theory of evolution. We will be focusing on developing our scientific enquiry skills to ask relevant questions, make detailed observations and use and present scientific evidence to conclude our findings. We will begin the topic exploring inheritance – specifically looking at our own families and determining what features we inherit from our parents and grandparents to then looking at animal inheritance. (We realise that this may be a sensitive subject for some children, if you feel your child may need extra support during these lessons, please do get in touch and let us know.) Later in the topic, we will explore the theory of adaptation; looking at how animals and plants have adapted to live in their environments. To conclude the topic, we will look at scientific theorists who have developed the theory of evolution.

To welcome you to school, give you an opportunity to see your child's teacher and classroom as well as find out about expectations for year 5/6, please attend the Parents Drop-in welcome evening on 13.09.23 after school.

Key Dates: (Please check the school website regularly as this is often updated with further information)

- *Student Council:* If your child is interested in representing our class, please ensure they have written a paragraph explaining why they would be good for the role. This needs to be in for Wednesday 20th September 2023.
- 13.09.23 Parents Welcome Evening – all welcome
- 14.09.23 Tuck Shop reopens
- 21.09.23 Swimming due to begin
- 26.09.23 Tansley Trail
- 28.09.23 School photographs
- 05.10.23 Harvest Service
- 11.10.23 & 12.10.23 Parents Consultation Evenings
- 27.10.23 INSET
- Break up for holidays
- 06.11.23 Back to School

Let us know if any of your details kept on record at school have changed. This includes medical information, phone numbers and addresses.

Please let school know if someone different is collecting your child or if you want your year 6 child to walk home after school.

We need parental permission for your child's safety.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us:

Mrs. Lamb: rlamb@tansley.derbyshire.sch.uk

(Working Days in Elders: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

Miss. Hampson: lhampson@tansley.derbyshire.sch.uk

(Working Days in Elders: Thursday and Friday)