



## Rye Community Primary School

"Dream, Believe, Achieve"



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Term 3! We hope you had a wonderful, restful break over the Christmas holidays. Our Term 3 topic is an exciting one and we hope the children will think so too.

### Term 3 Learning

#### **Frozen Kingdom**

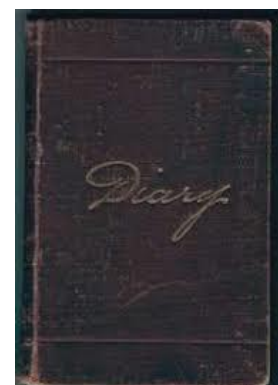
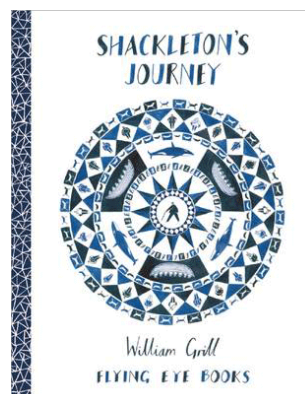
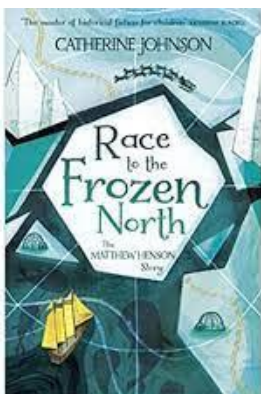
Our planning this term will focus on the topic of '**The Frozen Kingdom**'. In particular, we shall focus on Shackleton's Expedition, using the wonderful book "Shackleton's Journey" by William Grill. During this term, we will explore why Shackleton is such an important historical figure, as well as learning all about Antarctica and the treacherous journeys he attempted there. In addition to this, our Geography will focus on mountains: identifying those situated around the world, discussing how they are formed and researching the popular tourist sites.

In Science, we will be continuing to look at '**Evolution and Inheritance**'. As well as further deepening our understanding of Charles Darwin and his theories. We will explore the process of fossilization, looking at the impact this has had on Science as we know it. The children will conclude the term by finding out more about animals found in Antarctica and we will investigate the ways in which they are specially adapted to survive.

#### **English**

The children produced amazing writing last term using our core text and we are excited for them to continue to showcase their incredible ideas based on Shackleton's expedition. To support our writing lessons, we will use the texts 'Shackleton's Journey' and 'Race to the Frozen North: A Matthew Henson Story', by Catherine Johnson.

Our English learning will first be based on setting descriptions, told through a diary entry written from the point of view of a polar explorer. We will look at a range of settings and famous diary examples, from North Pole expeditions to abandoned houses, and collect adventurous vocabulary. Following this, we will be conducting our own research on Emperor Penguins before writing non-chronological reports. We are confident that the children will enjoy these genres and become fully immersed in everything there is to know about Antarctica!





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### How you can help your child

- **Make sure your child reads daily** and discuss the stories in terms of reasons for characters' actions and reasons for the author's choices of vocabulary. **Don't forget to record reading sessions in reading records.**
- Discuss meanings of any new vocabulary your child comes across.
- Support with any English / Grammar and Maths homework online, through the CGP books, Reading Eggs and Mathletics.
- Test children on their weekly spellings.
- Practise times tables on Times Table Rock Stars and orally. **Daily 10** is a fantastic website which will also help with times table fact recall.

### Mathematics

In our Maths lessons, we will be covering a range of mathematical topics: continuing our fractions unit before moving on to looking at ratio and algebra in Year 6. Year 5 will be securing their understanding of multiplication and division and both year groups will end the term by starting their decimals learning.

Please continue to encourage chanting and recall of times table facts - it is so important that our children know their multiplication and division facts. This will greatly benefit them in all areas of Maths.

### How you can help your child

- Look for opportunities to talk about maths in the everyday environment.
- Support your child and give them time to use mental calculation skills in real life contexts.
- Please ask your child about what they have been learning and encourage them to explain the methods they use in calculations.

### PE

Year 6 have PE on **Monday and Thursday afternoons.** Year 5 will have their lessons on **Wednesday afternoons and Friday before lunch.** Please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school on those days. This includes a white top, black shorts/leggings and sensible trainers or plimsolls. **NO football kits or sports hoodies please.**

### Homework

Homework will be given out on a Friday and is expected to be in by the following Wednesday. It is important that homework is completed, as this will help support the learning they have been doing in school. Reading Comprehension and Grammar will be set from CGP books and for Year 6, Maths will continue to be from their SATs Buster books. Year 5 will continue to use their Maths CGP books.

**The children will also be given 10 spellings to learn each week which they will be tested on each Friday.** Please support your child as they learn these.



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## Some super topic Ideas that you can complete together

Create a PowerPoint on your favourite animal found in Antarctica.



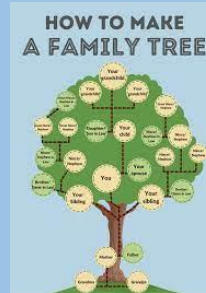
Read a book based on the Polar Regions. What information can you find out ready to share with the class?



Produce your own mini news report, reporting on a key polar expedition.



Design your own family tree, linked to our topic of Inheritance in Science.



Choose a famous mountain and find out 10 facts about it, before presenting this to our class as part of Geography.



If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us through Class Dojo.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Miss Brunton and Mrs Benn**





Science vocabulary:

Evolution and Inheritance Year 6

Key Vocabulary	
<b>offspring</b>	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
<b>inheritance</b>	This is when <b>characteristics</b> are passed on to <b>offspring</b> from their parents.
<b>variations</b>	The differences between individuals within a species.
<b>characteristics</b>	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
<b>adaptation</b>	An <b>adaptation</b> is a trait (or <b>characteristic</b> ) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.
<b>habitat</b>	Refers to a specific area or place in which particular animals and plants can live.
<b>environment</b>	An <b>environment</b> contains many <b>habitats</b> and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.

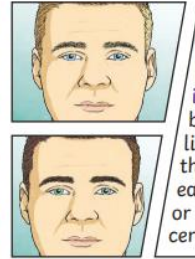


**Offspring**  
Animals and plants produce **offspring** that are similar but not identical to them. **Offspring** often look like their parents because features are passed on.

**Variation**  
In the same way that there is **variation** between parents and their **offspring**, you can see **variation** within any species, even plants.



**Adaptive Traits**  
**Characteristics** that are influenced by the **environment** the living things live in. These **adaptations** can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.

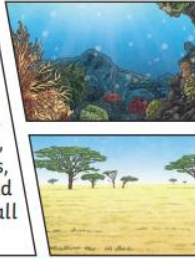


**Inherited Traits**  
Eye colour is an example of an **inherited trait**, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.



**Habitats**  
A good **habitat** should provide shelter, water, enough space and plenty of food.

**Environments**  
There are many types of **environment** around the world. Polar regions, deserts, rainforests, oceans, rivers, and grasslands are all **environments**.



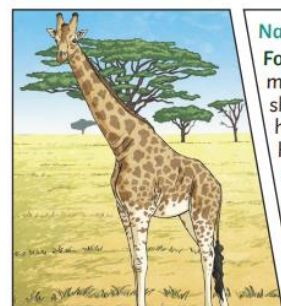
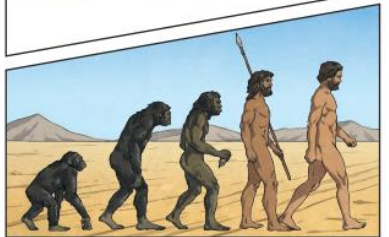
To look at all the planning resources linked to the Evolution and Inheritance unit, [click here](#).

Evolution and Inheritance Year 6

Key Vocabulary	
<b>evolution</b>	<b>Adaptation</b> over a very long time.
<b>natural selection</b>	The process where organisms that are better adapted to their <b>environment</b> tend to survive and produce more <b>offspring</b> .
<b>fossil</b>	The remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved.
<b>adaptive traits</b>	Genetic features that help a living thing to survive.
<b>inherited traits</b>	These are traits you get from your parents. Within a family, you will often see similar traits, e.g. curly hair.

Fossils are the preserved remains, or partial remains, of ancient animals and plants. Fossils let scientists know how plants and animals used to look millions of years ago. This is proof that living things have **evolved** over time.

**Evolution** is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously **evolving** - even today!



**Natural Selection**  
Fossils of giraffes from millions of years ago show that they used to have shorter necks. They have gradually **evolved** through **natural selection** to have longer necks so that they can reach the top leaves on taller trees.

Living Things	Habitat	Adaptive Traits
polar bear	arctic	Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
camel	desert	It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
cactus	desert	It stores water in its stem.
toucan	rainforest	Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.