

Once Upon A Raindrop



In this topic, the children will train to become 'Junior River Wardens'. Each week, they will carry out tasks that will ensure they understand the journey of a river, the effects that humans have on rivers and the importance of looking after our river environment to protect the wildlife that lives there. To enhance the children's understanding of rivers, they will gain first-hand experiences by visiting the local river: the River Chelmer.

English

Children will be inspired by the River Chelmer and the senses they experience while down at the river to write poetry about nature. They will also create detailed character descriptions to aid their future storytelling.

Maths

During this half term, the children will continue their work on fractions, looking in-depth at tenths and hundredths and adding and subtracting fractions. This will develop into discovery of decimal numbers with links to money, measurement and estimating.

Science

Through a series of experiments and investigations, children will learn about solids, liquids and gases. They will apply this knowledge to help their understanding of the water cycle, including evaporation and condensation. They will also begin to look at the identification and classification of animals, their life cycles and their role in food chains.

PSHE

This half term we will be focusing on caring for others. This will include the children's family roles and responsibilities as well as the UN convention on the rights of the child.

Geography

This topic will cover a large variety of geography skills, particularly mapping and reading OS maps. Children will learn about the physical geography of rivers as well as the human geography surrounding the development of towns situated alongside the river and the impact pollution has had on rivers.

Art

We will use water collected from the River Chelmer to produce watercolour backgrounds for publishing our nature poems. We will also collect naturally-occurring items such as leaves, twigs and feathers to create a printing project inspired by the river and its story.

Computing

The children will be using the programme Scratch to create a multiplication game with many levels.

Ways to help at home

- Continue to read daily with your child so that they are exposed to a variety of writing styles and vocabulary.
- Read a variety of poetry to expose your child to a range of quality vocabulary and different poetry styles.
- Focus on looking at money: adding and subtracting amounts.
- Look at OS maps of Great Dunmow (if you have any) and compare these to Google Maps.
- As the Year 4 Multiplication check is fast approaching, please continue to support the children by using TT Rockstars and the Maths Factor website regularly.

Year 4 news and key dates

We will be visiting the local River Chelmer in Dunmow approximately once a week, weather permitting. If required, we may ask your child to wear their wellies but we will be in touch with you if this is necessary. If there are any parents who would be available to help on the visits, please contact the office or your child's class teacher. The dates we hope to be visiting the river are below and will all take place from 9:05 am - 11:00 am:

- Thursday 20th April
- Friday 28th April
- Thursday 4th May
- Thursday 18th May
- Tuesday 23rd May

Swimming will start after Easter. Dates of your child's swimming lessons will feature on our weekly Newsletters and may not always be on the same day so please check regularly.