3EM

January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the spring term. This term we will be working on two closely linked IPC units: 'The Rainforests' and 'Chocolate'. We will also be taking part in the RSPB 'Birdwatch' project.

Both IPC units are part of the International Primary Curriculum, which is a development of the National Curriculum. It contains all the same key skills, whilst offering a wider range of choice in the subject matter. The units will also encourage personal development, which will help your child to become a more responsible and independent learner. It will also encourage international understanding, developing both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

During the units we will focus on geography, art, science, technology, music, PE, history and international issues. These are the learning goals we will be covering:

The Rainforest:

In Geography, we'll be finding out:

- about the location of rainforests
- which rainforest products we use in our everyday lives
- about the lives of rainforest people and how they compare with our own
- how and why the rainforest is being destroyed
- about how people are trying to save the rainforest

In Art, we'll be finding out:

- about rainforest art and artists
- how we can use various art techniques to create our own rainforest art

In Science, we'll be finding out:

- about the functions of skeletons and muscles
- about nutrition
- about different rainforest animals and plants
- where different animals and plants live in the rainforest
- about colour in the rainforest and how it is used by animals and plants
- about the functions of different parts of a plant
- about the best conditions to grow a plant
- about how to grow our own rainforest plants from seed

In Technology, we'll be finding out:

- about how to plan and make our own tropical fruit drinks
- how to design and make a rainforest themed recorder case

In Music, we'll be finding out:

- how to use sound to represent rainforest themes

In International studies, we'll be finding out:

- how different countries and organisations are helping to save our rainforests

Chocolate:

In Geography, we'll be finding out:

- where cacao trees are found
- about the factors affecting the growth of cacao trees
- about other cash crops

In History, we'll be finding out:

- about the Mayans – their lives and the decline of their civilisation
- about the discovery of chocolate
- who took the first chocolate to Europe
- about the importance of cocoa beans for trade

In technology, we'll be finding out:

- how to make our own chocolates

In Art, we'll be finding out:

- about how to design a wrapper for our chocolate bar

In International studies, we'll be finding out:

- about 'fair trade' chocolate and other products
- about the importance of chocolate

We also plan to visit 'Cadbury World' to enhance our studies.

Both units:

In computing, we'll be:

- using the internet to support our research
- using computers to organise and present out work
- using computers to store and interrogate data
- using sound editing software to manipulate sound

In addition to the above we will be continuing to follow units in both English (non-chronological reports and information texts) and mathematics. In RE we will be looking at different aspects of Christianity and Buddhism.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses. If your child has some research to do, please help and support them, without actually doing the work! If you have the chance to further your child's interest in our work, please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest are the most important things.

By the end of the units, I hope your child has achieved all of the learning targets and has had an enjoyable time in the classroom. I hope you will have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. In the meantime, please feel free to pop into class after school to see your child's work on our displays. Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie McGurk