



## Welcome to Year 5 & 6



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**Mrs Eager**

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**A new Year– a new topic.** As the Christmas festivities become memories, it is time to reflect on all we have achieved so far and look forward to the challenges we will face in 2025. Our topic this whole term is The Amazon. We will be looking at habitats, the water cycles and how rainforests provide an incredibly important part in keeping carbon out of our atmosphere. With the environment and particularly The Amazon taking centre stage in world news at the moment, this is a chance for our children to learn about something that impacts their lives today and in the future. We will also be getting our Year 6s ready for their SATs by providing daily arithmetic practice and setting targets for home revision as the term goes on. If you have any questions or queries, then please get in contact with our child's class teacher.

### PE Days:

Please ensure your child **comes to school dressed for outdoor PE on the correct day**. Please make sure they are wearing the correct PE kit (white t-shirt, school jumper and black trousers / shorts).

William Knibb: Tuesday and Thursday  
Malala Yousafzai: Tuesday and Thursday  
Nelson Mandela: Monday and Tuesday

### Reminders & Considerations

It is a health and safety requirement that all children with longer hair have it tied back, and during PE ear piercings are taken out or covered with plasters.

If you need to talk to your class teacher about anything, you do not have to wait until parents'

### Homework

We give our homework on a **Friday** and it must be **handed in the Wednesday after**. We expect our classes to complete:

- 1) The homework set by your teacher on the Friday
- 3) At least 10 minutes per night reading, recorded in your reading records at least 5 times a week. Reading records are checked every Friday.

Children will be given a list of 10 spellings to learn and complete "look, cover, write and check" activity.



Year **5/6**

Term **Spring 1 & 2**

Subject Focus: **Geography**

Theme: **The Amazon.**



What would  
happen if the  
rainforest disappeared?

# Amazing Amazon



## Some special events this term:

Stunning Start: 3D virtual tour of the Amazon Rainforest.

Motivating Middle: Germinating and growing plants to make our classrooms look like a jungle.

Explosive End: Writing persuasive letters to the government, focusing on deforestation and environmental change.

## The value(s) we are practising this term are:

**Aspiration:** *"Forgetting what is behind, and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize." Philipians 3: 13b, 14a*

**Compassion:** *"Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched the man. 'I am willing' he said. 'Be clean'. Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured." Mark 1: 41-2*



**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOUR  
AWARD**

## **THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE: ASK AN ADULT - HOPES & DREAMS**

This month is 'Ask an adult' month!

Can you interview an adult at home or in your community about their aspirations when they were your age? What did they want to be when they grew up? Do they have an aspiration now?

You can send a video of your interview, or write or draw a picture about who you spoke to and what you found out, and email it (with your name and class) to [head@standrews.pdet.org.uk](mailto:head@standrews.pdet.org.uk) to claim a sticker for the back cover of your passport. Complete eight challenges to get your award!



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## **THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE: CHARITY WORK**

Think of a charity that means a lot to you - maybe it's an animal charity, a children's charity, a medical research charity, or something else?

This month, can you help your special charity? You could do a sponsored silence, bake and sell some cakes or biscuits, use your arts and crafts talents to create something to sell, or sort out some toys, books or clothes you don't use anymore and take them to a charity shop.

Send a picture or a report on your charity work, along with your name and class, to [head@standrews.pdet.org.uk](mailto:head@standrews.pdet.org.uk) to claim a sticker for the back cover of your passport. Complete eight challenges to get your award!

high aspirations  
talent expectations  
knowledge

skills  
curriculum  
community  
children  
positive role model  
heritage

enthusiasm  
outstanding progress  
friendly purpose

relevant cultural experience  
curiosity love of learning  
love of literature range



## Literacy

**Key Text:** The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

**Purpose for Writing:** Newspaper style recounts and Persuasion.

**Writing:** Children will learn how to compose a persuasion text with links throughout the curriculum, especially maths where children will need to prove their ideas and theories. Don't be surprised if your children come home with a few extra tricks to convince you they need more pocket money! We will be facing our phobias when writing out fear stories, really focusing on making the feelings of our characters come alive with lots of description.

**Grammar:** Each teacher will be reactive to the children's needs, using the Cold Write. However, these units lend themselves to the teaching of different sentence types, descriptive writing and using a range of punctuation.

**Word Reading / Comprehension:** Children will learn to sequence and summarise a text, use retrieval skills and explain and discuss their understanding of books, poems and other material.

## Geography

**Focus:** The Amazon is the second longest river, the largest in terms of how much water travels down it each year and the lifeblood of the largest rainforest in the world. The children will learn how with natural wonder benefits our whole planet, and how it is under threat from human activity. They will learn about life on the river, and why it isn't the best place to grow crops. With obvious links to our science curriculum, we will learn how the wildlife has adapted and evolved to cope with the hot, humid environment. This builds on Lower Key Stage 2 learning of climate and map skills.

## ART

**Focus:** Drawing and Painting – Perspective:

Children will look at how artists like David Hockney, Georgia O'Keefe and Canaletto use techniques to give their landscapes depth and perspective on a flat page. This skill has lots of practical uses in a number of professions, and the children will practice and have lots of opportunity to make mistakes and improve during the half term.

## PSHE & Relationships education

**Focus:** Keeping Myself Safe

Children will continue to develop an understanding of how to manage risk, including staying safe online and the norms around the use of legal drugs (tobacco, alcohol).

### Role Models for this half term:

Evelyn Glennie and Cerrie Burnell

Martin Luther King.

Amazing Amazon—what would happen if the rainforest disappeared?

Year 5/6

Spring 1

## Computing

**Digital Composing:** For the first time ever, our children will be using SonicPi to compose music digitally using computer code.

Online safety: What are the rules for social media in the UK? (Link to PSHE)

## PE

**Focus:** Pupils learn different styles of dance. Dance as a whole, pupils think about how to use movement to explore and communicate ideas and issues, and their own feelings and thoughts.

## Music

**Focus:** The Blues and music influenced by the Amazon.

## Maths

**Key Facts Y5:** Apply recall of times tables to decimals, e.g.  $2 \times 2 = 4$ ,  $0.2 \times 2 = 0.4$ .

Multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000

**Key Facts Y6:** Apply recall of times tables when both numbers are decimals e.g.  $2 \times 2 = 4$ ,  $0.2 \times 0.2 = 0.04$ .

**Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.:** The children will build on their fractions knowledge from Lower Key Stage 2, and delve deeper into the connections between fractions, decimals and percentages.

**Units of measure.** Children will build on their lower Key Stage 2 understanding of measurement by recapping converting metric units of length and linking them to metric units of volume and weight. Year 6s will also learn about imperial units of measure and their approximate metric equivalents.

(Please see our Calculation Progression document on our website for strategies.)

## Science

**Focus:** Classification of Plants

The pupils will be learning to organise information and separate living things based upon their close observations of the features of plants and micro-organisms. They will conduct experiments to identify how micro-organisms and plants develop. They will use microscopes to identify minute similarities and differences between them. Children will apply their mathematical skills of recording information to prove their observations and display their findings.

## Spanish

**Focus:** Shapes., building on our first term of fruits and vegetables.

## RE

**Focus:** Creation and science: conflicting or complimentary?

During this unit, we will weigh up how far the Genesis 1 creation narrative is in conflict, or is complementary, with a scientific account.

We will explore whether reading Genesis as a poetic account conflicts with scientific accounts as well as discovering that many scientists throughout history, and now, are Christians. We will discuss how the discoveries of science make Christians wonder even more about the power and majesty of the Creator.