



Dear Parents/Carers

Ship ahoy! We are off on an exciting journey with Charles Darwin and his crew on the HMS Beagle. During this term, we are going to investigate a range of animal specimens, describing the characteristics of the creatures, and labelling their body parts. We will use a range of non-fiction books to investigate adaptation, natural selection, variation and inheritance. After examining letters and journal entries written by Darwin, we will be writing our own examples. We are going to collect natural items and discover what plants live around our school. We will retrace Darwin's steps using maps and create sketchbooks to record the plants, flowers and trees we encounter. Using maps and globes, we will plan an expedition. What will the weather be like and what physical and man-made features might we encounter? At the end of the topic, we will think about why the Galapagos Islands developed such diverse animal life, and why they might be under threat. We'll also think about what Darwin would have worked on if he were alive today. How would he use our technology?

As you can see from the above, our theme this term is 'Darwin's Delights'. This theme will include exploring, developing and implementing our geography, science and history knowledge and skills whilst learning about Charles Darwin and the impact that he had on our understanding of the natural world around us.

Curriculum Coverage

English	Weslandia – writing our own stories using expanded noun phrases Animalium – Writing a page for an information text.
Maths	Long multiplication, negative numbers, fractions and decimals, data, pie charts, percentages.
Science	Evolution and inheritance, living things and their habitats.
Art and Design	Creating sketchbooks, observational drawing.
Computing	Online research, morphing animations, understanding computer networks.
Geography	Using maps, geographical similarities and differences, islands of the world.
History	Significant individuals – Charles Darwin and Mary Anning.
PSHE	Taking responsibility.

In preparation for this exciting theme, here is some of the vocabulary, which we will be using this term.

adaptation	artificial selection	cloning	DNA	endangered species	evolution
extinct	fossil	genetic engineering	habitat	inheritance	naturalist
natural selection	species	specimen	trait	variation	classification

Reading

Please continue to listen to your child read. Encourage them to read every day (either to a grown up or on their own) asking them questions about the content, the characters thoughts, feelings and actions and author word choices. Please remember to write in their reading record book and encourage your child to write in it if they have read independently.

Spelling

Please encourage your child to learn their spellings each week ready for a quiz on Fridays.

Home learning

Please encourage your child to practise their times tables and the related division facts – these are key skills that are needed in Year 6.

PE

Your child will need a PE kit every week on Monday and Tuesday. Please ensure they have a change of shoes and a pair of shorts and t-shirt. They can also wear trousers and a jumper if it is cold.

Water Bottles

Please provide a named water bottle for your child that they can refill if needed. Water only please for bottles in class.

Many thanks, the Year 6 team