**Squirrels – Summer 1 Round-up**

This half term we have been exploring the map of the world. We looked at the map of the world, located the seven continents, where we live and where the rainforests are on the Equator.

We also did some research about rainforests, exploring what they're like and the animals that live there. In our second week, we had an exciting class trip to the Living Rainforest in Newbury. The children were excellently behaved: the absolute pride of Broughton. They listened closely to Esther, our tour guide, as she pointed out the special features of the plants and adaptations of the animals. The children wrote a recount of the events in their own words and enjoyed following up their learning in class, enjoying both fictional and non-fiction books that link to this topic.

We read "*There's a rang-tan in my bedroom*" and discovered that many rainforests are being chopped down to create space for activities such as farming palm oil, which is used in shampoos, chocolate and many other products. Squirrels were upset that animals are often losing their homes through over-farming. They have thought of ways they can share their thoughts with others by telling people and have made posters which are posted around the school – in line with Article 12 on the right to be heard, with every child having the right to express their views, feelings and matters that affect them. The children have had great fun role-playing with homemade masks and created a beautiful display, representing the layers of the rainforest and the animals that live there. It has been so enjoyable to learn about other countries and the world that we live in.

In number, we have been counting daily and becoming more and more accurate. We have been making links between previous learning and our current learning, using number bonds and known facts to support taking away. We have been using our number bond knowledge to take away from 10 and are beginning to recall these facts automatically and enjoying using other known number facts such as doubles and halves, this is also helping us to check the answers. We have been applying our number knowledge to undertake simple activities and this week we have been measuring. We measured our height using a meter stick and the length of our shoes using unifix. The children enjoyed comparing the length and height of different items.

In our characteristics of learning, we are thinking outside the box this half term, problem-solving and finding new ways to do things/having their own ideas. They are trying to bounce back from a challenge and say "I can".

This half term we have had big focus on looking after our mental health using the wellbeing wheel and discussing what that means. We have learned that it involves looking after our minds and feelings by being active, positive to others, mindful, creative and connecting with others. Ask your child to show you our favourite breathing technique, which we use to calm down when we're upset and helps us feel relaxed day to day.

Our pond is buzzing with busy tadpoles growing and changing every day. We are making observations and talking about each stage as we see them develop. We hope to have froglets after half term making new homes near our pond. The children were thrilled, following the life cycle and understanding the importance of taking care of nature and that every living bug and animal has an impact on our planet.

We have written invitations to the new children who will be coming to visit next term. The children are so excited and can't wait to be the leaders and show them how much fun we have in Squirrel's class.

Phonic lessons, reading and listening to stories continue in class. We have had a focus on learning our tricky words and have thought of new and fun ways to do this. We can say that the new tricky words are very tricky!

Please continue to read and practice your tricky words over the half term. Wishing you all a sunny half-term holiday and well-deserved rest.

Mrs Hudgell















