



Dear Parents and Carers

9th January 2026

Welcome back to the Spring Term! I hope you have all enjoyed the festivities of the Christmas break and had a chance - over what is always an exciting and busy holiday- to recharge your batteries.

During Spring Term 1, we will be starting our new topic “From Rio to the Rainforest.”

This is a particularly exciting Geography unit, thanks to video lessons from the Amazon rainforest. The lessons give the children extremely visually engaging content to inspire them to learn more about this incredible eco-system and why, as our future generation, they must **aspire** to protect it. We explore life in the rainforest from an Indigenous Tribe’s point of view, and bring the rainforest into our Science, English and PE dance unit to strengthen the learning.

Alongside our Geography unit, we will be exploring a new art topic called “monotype”. This is an organic way of producing art using a sort of printing technique. This art topic is brand new for 2026, and I am really excited to see the children learn a new skill. Of course, there will be a rainforest theme too!

The class text that we will be reading this term for both pleasure and to support our learning is:

Asha and the Spirit bird by Jasbinder Bilan

Whilst this book is set in India; the rich vocabulary about the wildlife Asha encounters across the way fits in perfectly with our rainforest topic, and will continue to inspire children to be **Stewards of the Earth** and **aspire** to learn more about this wonderful planet God made for us. If you would like to buy this book/borrow it from the library please do, your child will benefit from and enjoy following along as we read in their own text.

Things to remember:

- Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times a week, and practice their spellings with them. Consistently reading these with your children really does help enable them to **be the best they can be**.
- PE kit, please can children come to school in their **PE kit** on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**.
- Homework – this will be set on a Friday and will need to be in the following Wednesday. Please speak to me if printed copies are needed.
- Please ensure your child continues to bring a named water bottle in each day.

As ever, I am always on the playground at the end of the day if you have any questions or concerns. If you need to contact me in another way, please email FAO Mrs Carr via admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk

Regards
Mrs Carr