Year 3/4 Autumn Term 2026	
TERM: Explore (Geography) **THEME: Rivers**	
KEY ENQUIRY QUESTION: Are rivers more important for people or for wildlife?	
AUTHENTIC OUTCOME:	**River Documentary** Working in groups, children create a short documentary explaining: • How rivers are formed. • The journey from source to mouth. • Why rivers are important. • Problems rivers face today.
VISIT:	Local visit: Frequent visits to the River Chelmer (Great Easton)
Links to careers and possible visitors	Artists, geographers, philosophers, environmental engineers, farmers and gardeners.
English	**Narrative** – 'Mini Rabbit Not Lost' by John Bond **Poetry** - 'Words are Ours' by Michael Rosen and 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright • Weekly guided reading and comprehension lessons • Frequent handwriting lessons
Maths	Number and place value TBC
Religious Education	**Christian – Global**: Why is there so much diversity of belief within Christianity? **Hindu**: How do Hindus make sense of the world?
Science	Sound: Sounds Spectacular Animals including humans: Fit for Success
Music	Musical Structures & Exploring Feelings When You Play
PSHE	Autumn 1 - Being Me in My World Autumn 2 – Celebrating Difference

Art & Design	Medium: Digital Art
Computing	The Internet & Audio Production
PE	• Tag rugby • Orienteering • Dance • Netball • Fundamental Movement Skills
Design Technology	Electrical systems
P4C	Who owns the Earth? Do people have a responsibility to look after our planet? Can one person make a difference to the environment? Should everyone have the same access to clean water? Is it fair that some countries have more resources than others? What do we really need to live a good life? Can nature exist without people?
Spirituality	Be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and others.

Year 3/4
Autumn Term
Explore

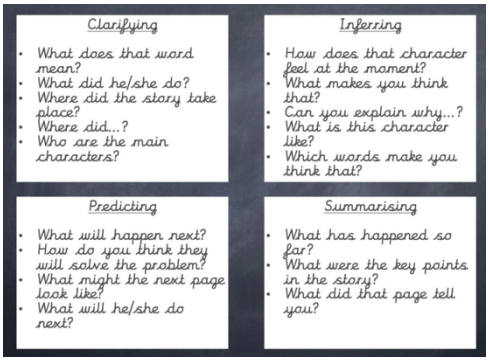
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to The Hive! I hope you had a fantastic summer, making wonderful memories, enjoying the sunshine, and taking time to rest and recharge ahead of the new year.

Topic
This term, the children will be exploring the fascinating world of rivers. They will discover how rivers are formed, follow their journey from source to mouth, and learn about the physical features found along the way. The children will also have the exciting opportunity to visit our local river, the River Chelmer. During this hands-on fieldwork experience, they will become young geographers, exploring the river environment and developing their enquiry skills through a range of practical activities, including:

- Mapping how the surrounding land is used
- Creating detailed field sketches
- Investigating the quality of the river water
- Sampling and examining river sediments
- Measuring the speed of the river's flow (velocity)

Reading
Please continue to read regularly with your child. We recommend that children in year 3/4 read aloud to a grown-up for at least 10 minutes a day. We will check reading diaries weekly but please ensure your child's reading diary is always kept in their bag. Please see some comprehension questions to support your child's comprehension skills.



Spellings
All children will be given a spelling book. Children will be given new spellings every week and we recommend you also do these at home in the spelling book. This book must stay in their bag so they can use it at school. Year 4 children will also be given a set of times tables to learn each week.

Times Tables Check
In year 4, there is a national Times Table Check in June. It is important for the children to learn all their times tables up to the 12 times tables. We will be learning these in school, but it would be helpful to do these at home as well. All children have a TT Rockstars login, and we recommend children use this at home.

SMART Learning
Children all have their own Doodle and TT rockstars logins in the front of their reading diary. The expectation is that children complete all four doodles (English, Maths, Spelling and Times Tables) daily. This takes around 10 minutes a day but makes a significant difference in their progress. As children move through KS2, fluency with times tables becomes increasingly important. TT Rockstars is a fun and engaging way to practise at home, and regular use will really support their fluency and success in maths.

I have created a document of other ideas for SMART learning which can be done at home. Please see separate document.

I am really looking forward to teaching the children in The Hive this year. We have some great things lined up and before we know it, we will be rehearsing the Christmas show! Please do get in touch via dojo/email if you ever have any questions.

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