

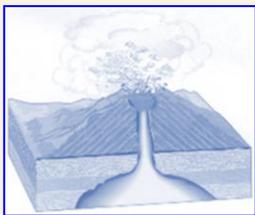


Dear parents/carers,

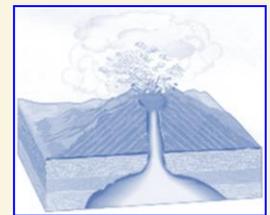
We hope you had a fantastic half term! It's been great to hear all the facts about our new topic 'Volcanoes' that the children learnt over the half term. They are already very enthusiastic, so we're excited for the weeks ahead!

If you have any questions, you can always come and talk to us in class 😊,

Miss Connell and Mr. Jones



Term 2 Topic: *Volcanoes*



The children began the new topic by researching a famous volcano and creating a fact-file, using their literacy skills from last term.

Over the coming weeks, they will discover how volcanoes are formed and study their structure, before making their own 3D volcanoes. They will also learn about the structure of the Earth, how volcanoes erupt and about the Ring of Fire before creating their own ring of erupting volcanoes on the playground!

The children will continue their learning about volcanoes through our literacy work, beginning with writing volcano shape poems that include poetic devices such as alliteration, onomatopoeia and rhyme. They will then learn about the historic eruption of Mount Vesuvius and write newspaper reports with 'eyewitness accounts'.



Our science unit for the term is Rocks and Soils, which links perfectly with our volcanoes topic. We are very excited about our Rocks Day by *Science off the Page* which will be on Friday 8th December (all costs are covered by the school). Over the last couple of years, this has been a fantastic day for the children as they get to make fossils, investigate different rocks and learn about weathering in a fun and practical way. In science lessons, the children will learn about the rock cycle, different types of rocks and understand how fossils are formed.

In art and DT, the children will create volcano splat painting as well as making their own 3D volcanoes. To link in with our science unit, they will create natural art using rocks and also create artwork using chalk.

Other subjects ...

Numeracy: In Term 2, we will continue to cover the National Curriculum objectives including understanding calculation and solving missing number problems, investigating shape and handling money. The children will continue to practise their calculation skills in our daily 'Brain Activate' sessions.

Computing: This term, the children will learn safe ways of searching the internet, including using children's search engines. They will learn how to use key words to search for information more effectively and will practise and compare the different skills needed when using laptops and iPads. The children will continue to practise programming skills using *Scratch* too.

RE: The children will continue to learn about Christianity, including a study of the local church and its saints. Towards the end of term, we will study the Nativity and write our own alternative versions based on the book 'A Christmas Story' by Brian Wildsmith.

Helping your child at home ...

Spellings: We will continue to send home spellings on Fridays and test them on the following Friday. All spellings are taken either from the Year 1/2 or Year 3/4 list of spellings recommended in the National Curriculum.

Times tables: The children will continue to be tested on their times tables and related division facts every Friday. They are given 2 minutes to answer 30 questions. Well done to all the children for all their hard work to learn them so far! By the end of Year 3 it is expected that children should know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables.

Reading records: In order to gain their reading certificates, the children need to be reading 5 times a week. We will continue to check the reading records on Monday mornings. If the reading record is not in school or has not been handed in for any reason, we will check it the following Monday and we will make sure we count the missing week. Again, well done to all the children who have read 5 times a week so far!

Homework: Every week, the children are expected to learn the times tables and spellings they have been given. In addition, they will now be given a piece of *My Maths* homework to complete online. The children's first piece of *My Maths* homework will be set on Friday 10th November and a new piece will be set every Friday (letters have been sent home with more information). After completing 10 weeks of *My Maths* homework, the children will get a certificate to celebrate their achievements. The children should complete this independently.

Learning logs: Learning log homework will be set once or twice each term. The children did a great job on their volcanoes research and they had clearly learnt a lot over the holidays! Remember, learning logs can be colorful and eye-catching, with added drawings, lift-flaps, photos and anything else to make them into a personal learning scrap book.

Class 3 information ...

- Trips and visitors: *The Saints* on Friday 17th November and 'Rocks Day' on Friday 8th December.
- PE: PE kits, including warm outdoor clothing and trainers, will need to be in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- PPA: Children will have P4C and PE on Wednesday afternoons during PPA time.
- Celebration assemblies: We will write a list of all children who are due to receive a certificate from school and place it in the window in the week leading up to all KS2 celebration assemblies. Please continue to bring in any awards and certificates achieved out of school.