



16th January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We have a busy term ahead; please see the table overleaf for an outline of our areas of study in terms 3 and 4.

The children have had a successful first week back; I have been especially pleased with their focus and determination in maths as we step up our learning with more sophisticated calculation methods including long multiplication. They have adjusted well to the timetable changes with Year 5 and 6 joining every afternoon. This has promoted some good collaborate learning. We will of course keep this under constant review.

Please do come and speak to me if there are any concerns you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Cocks

Living on the Edge: Volcanoes and Earthquakes

The children will be finding out about what causes these natural disasters as well as researching their impact on communities all over the world. We will be researching the famous eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD and writing stories and descriptions based on that fateful day from the perspective of the residents of Pompeii. In DT the children will be designing and making battery controlled buggies to transport first aid to the base of the volcano!

Homework

A reminder that homework includes: learning spellings for a test on Friday; learning a Maths Passport target which is also tested on Friday and reading at home at least 3 times a week (recorded in your child's reading record). Hand in day is Thursday and completion of all 3 tasks earns a raffle ticket for a weekly draw! Regularly working on these key skills greatly supports your child's ability to access the curriculum in class.

PE Kit

PE will take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Some sessions will take place outside so please be prepared with layers.

Please see the table below for an outline of our areas of learning in terms 3 and 4:

Subject	Term 3 Before February Half Term	Term 4 After February Half Term
English	<p>We will be writing our own disaster stories focussing on the use of ambitious and descriptive vocabulary, and building cohesion across our narratives.</p> <p>We will write explanation texts about volcanoes and earthquakes looking at the structure of this text type and choosing vocabulary specific to text type.</p>	<p>We will be creating factfiles about Pompeii and Vesuvius before moving onto newspaper reports about the eruptions and the devastating effects they had. Within both of these topics we will be looking at the layout devices, using formal language and a wider range of punctuation.</p>
Maths	<p><u>Multiplication and Division:</u> mental and written methods of multiplication and division (this will include short multiplication, long multiplication and short division); solving problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and a combination of these.</p> <p><u>Fractions:</u> comparing and ordering fractions; exploring equivalent fractions; recognising and converting mixed numbers and improper fractions.</p>	<p><u>Fractions:</u> adding and subtracting fractions; multiplying fractions by whole numbers; reading and writing decimal numbers as fractions; solving problems involving multiplication and division.</p> <p><u>Decimals and Percentages:</u> reading, writing, ordering, rounding, comparing and solving problems with numbers with up to 3 decimal places; recognising and using the percentage symbol %; solve problems involving knowing percentage and decimal equivalents.</p>
Science	<p><u>Light</u> Finding out about how we see things and investigating light, shadows and reflection.</p>	<p><u>Electricity</u> Building circuits, drawing circuit diagrams and finding out more about electrical safety.</p>
Computing	<p><u>Programming</u> Using scratch</p>	<p><u>Spreadsheets and Databases</u> Including using Excel to carry out a range of tasks.</p>
History/ Geography	<p><u>Living on the Edge: Volcanoes and Earthquakes</u></p>	
PE	<p><u>Gymnastics</u> Basketball</p>	<p><u>Orienteering</u> <u>Tri-Golf</u></p>



Subject	Term 3 Before February Half Term	Term 4 After February Half Term
Art/ Design Technology	Art Range of pieces linked to volcanoes.	DT – Race to the Volcano Design and make a battery controlled buggy to travel over a rocky terrain.
Religious Education	What would Jesus do? Relate biblical ideas, teachings and beliefs to issues, problems and opportunities of their own lives and to the world today. Closer to <u>Easter, we will explore the question: What difference does the resurrection make for Christians?</u>	
Spanish	Expressing likes and dislikes Food Hobbies and sport	
Music	The children will be learning songs based on the Shakespeare story of Macbeth	

How to help your child at home:

Secure knowledge of times tables is absolutely essential for all of our maths topics this term so please ensure that your child's maths passport target is practised regularly.

Reading of information texts and news stories related to our volcanoes and earthquakes topic would be beneficial. Discussion around the impact on people and communities when a natural disaster strikes is an emotive topic that some children would benefit from talking about at home as well as in school.

Please monitor your child's use of the internet and games and ensure that you regularly speak to them about internet safety.