



Spring 1 Half Term Information for Parents Year 4

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year, we hope that you have had a super Christmas break! We look forward to beginning our new topic for this half term which will be 'Extreme Earth'. This information sheet tells you all about this topic and how it will stretch across the curriculum, across a range of the children's lessons. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Spring 1 – 'Extreme Earth'

Cross curricular links:

English: Our English lessons this term will be rooted in our 'Extreme Earth' topic and will allow the children to explore a range of non-fiction texts which will be used as a basis for their own writing. Children will explore volcanoes during their Topic lessons and, in their English lessons, will have the opportunity to write an explanation of how volcanoes are formed and how they erupt. With a link to our Computing lessons, children will take on the role of weather presenters and will use their research on extreme weather, to write their own weather report. They will then be given the opportunity to develop their speaking and listening skills, performing their weather report in front of their classmates. They will consider and practise a range of techniques to help them to gain and maintain the interest of their audience. Finally, children will write a non-chronological report on extreme weather, using all of the knowledge and research which they have been able to obtain throughout the course of our topic.

Geography: Children will learn about the destructive powers of nature, from volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and tornadoes. Through discussion and practical tasks, children will learn about how and why these natural phenomena occur, and the ways in which they affect people and the environment.

Design and Technology: With a link to our topic, children will design, make, evaluate and test their own model erupting volcano. They will generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional diagrams and prototypes. Children will select from and use a range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks accurately; investigate and analyse a range of existing products; evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.

PE: Over the course of our gymnastics lessons, children will explore shape and movement creating short sequences developing control and co-ordination.; develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance; compare their performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best. With a link to our topic, children will practise and develop a range of different skills and movement patterns linked to the art of dance with the aim of producing an interesting dance phrase to represent a montage of natural disasters.

Computing: Following the Rising Stars 'We Are Meteorologists' unit, children will be given the opportunity to take on the role of meteorologists and weather presenters. They will collect weather data which they will then measure, analysis and present.

Subjects being taught separately this half term:

Science: The children will carry out demonstrations of vibrations, and will complete a sound survey of their school. They will work in groups to create a human model of the way particles pass sound vibrations on, and write and star in their own documentary explaining how sound travels. They will use their understanding of how high and low sounds are made to create their own set of pan pipes and will have

the opportunity to make a string telephone to investigate how sounds change over distance and through different materials.

Music: Children will take part in a weekly drumming workshop with a visiting drum teacher. During these sessions, children will play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression; listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.

Maths: Children will continue to recall and use multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 . They will use place value, known and derived facts to multiply and divide mentally; solve integer scaling problems and harder correspondence problems, such as n objects are connected to m objects. Children will learn how to find the areas of rectilinear shapes by counting squares. They will build upon their prior knowledge to develop their conceptual understanding and fluency. Children will then apply their knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts, solving one and two-step problems.

PSCHE: Theme - Going for Goals/Assertiveness. We will explore the value of self-confidence and self-belief, while the children consider their own personal aspirations. Additionally, we will discuss and explore the importance of assertiveness and, in response to the needs of the class; we will discuss appropriate responses to a range of behaviours, exploring a range of different contexts.

RE: (to be taught by Miss Pickering) Unit 2: Jesus as the Son of God and referred to as Christ.

How can you help?

- Ensure your child is in school on time and ready to learn.
- Support your child in becoming independent and accountable for their own learning, taking responsibility themselves for ensuring that they have everything they need. This includes having all the equipment they need for the day, such as PE kit, reading book and reading record.
- Practise the year 3/4 spelling list as well as the high frequency words. Can your child read and spell them? Can they use them in a sentence?
- Complete homework activities with your child.
- Share your child's school reading book with them, questioning children on their predictions of what might happen next. Can they use evidence in the book to support their answer? As children become more independent in their reading, you may wish to allow your child to read independently and then question them on their understanding of the content.
- Practise mental maths including times tables (up to 12×12); discuss money, time and measures with real examples.
- Encourage your child to tell you what they have been learning about at school and where possible, extend their learning at home, through books, outings, discussions and the internet.
- Please check your child's book bag frequently for letters and other information.
- If you have any interesting topic related artefacts that your child could share for a display or discussion, please bring them into school.

Homework

Children will receive a creative homework grid, detailing a range of different activities for children to choose from. All of these activities are linked to our current topic and will help enhance and enrich your child's learning.

Class Reminders

PE: Y4 – Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning

Reading books and records must be in school every day.