



### Concept: Exploring the World

The Big Debate: Making a positive contribution in the world is your responsibility not mine.

#### What will the children be learning?

Our project this half term has a heavy geography focus as we investigate earthquakes and volcanoes and the effect they have on their local area. This will pose the question 'Why do people choose to live near volcanoes?' encouraging children to compare and contrast their own lives to the lives of others. This links nicely with our science unit as we will be looking at different types of rocks and soils to see how they effect different locations too.

We are very excited to be having weekly music lessons with Mr Johnson where we will be learning to play the ukulele. This unit will last for the whole of the Spring Term to prepare for a performance to the school at Easter time.

Our PE units this half term will see us developing balance and coordination through gymnastics on Tuesdays. On Fridays we will be heading out into the cold to build on our ball skills unit from before Christmas to practice and play netball. The children will also be focusing on their cooperation and collaboration skills to become an effective team.

On top of all this our DT unit this half term is cooking and nutrition where we will be looking at the seasons and how to utilise the produce available to eat seasonally.



#### English

In English, we will begin by focusing on letter writing and being thankful for the things that we have. We will then move on to narrative writing focusing on the story 'The Firework Makers Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. This will allow the children to understand the feeling of what it is like to be around a volcano as part of a perilous journey up the mountain. It will enable us to explore direct speech and develop our descriptive language in order to create settings. We will be using role-play to really understand how our characters feel and then use this to create our own version of the story. We will also be continuing to work on our spelling and reading comprehension skills through daily practice.

#### Maths

This half term we are going to be focusing on different types of measurement.

First we will delve deeper into time telling skills, become masters at telling the time to the nearest minute, and begin to explore using digital clocks as well as analogue ones. After that, the children will explore length, capacity and weight. This will include not only taking measurements and reading scales but also developing our problem solving skills by tackling a range of one and two-step problems and tasks.

Whilst working on these, we will still be practising calculations for the four main operations, working on our times tables and developing our reasoning skills.

#### How to help at home

Children will be given two homework booklets. Please complete these weekly and submit a photograph of the logged information each week onto Google Classroom.

Children will receive house points for their homework efforts.

#### Spelling

Weekly spellings are set in line with our spelling scheme. We will practise the relevant spelling rules in class each week but further practice at home is key to embedding knowledge. The children can do this using the spelling log in the home work booklet or through their weekly assignment on Spelling Shed.

Also on Spelling Shed is a second assignment that focused on common exception words. These spelling lists are bespoke to each pupil and will be regularly updated throughout the year. A paper copy of these will be sent home regularly for those that wish to practise in different ways.

#### Reading

Many pupils are becoming confident readers and will enjoy reading to themselves however, regular practice reading aloud is crucial to further reading development. Please read with your child regularly (we recommend 5 times a week) as well as having conversations about what they have read to develop verbal comprehension skills.

#### Maths

Our Maths homework consists of two parts. The first is the weekly homework booklet that needs to be completed and marked before uploading. As well as the well beloved TTRockstars for further times table practice.

#### Other information

**PE:** Our weekly PE sessions are on Tuesdays and Fridays. PE kits are to be worn to school, ensuring that hair is tied back and earrings removed.

**Library and book band books:** Pupils have access to the school library daily at break time but we will also go as a class on Tuesday where children will be able to change their library book. Many children will be assigned a book band level to support their independent reading journey. These can be changed on Monday and Thursday mornings with Mrs Cochrane. If the pupil is a 'free reader' they will be able to choose a second book from the school library that can be changed as often as they choose.

**Waterbottles:** Waterbottles are permitted in the classroom and are kept at the front of the room for children to access as they need them. We expect these to be filled with water but other drinks can be drunk at lunchtime as part of their packed lunch.