



Concept: Exploring the World

The Big Debate: **What we have achieved in this century is more significant than the past.**

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.



The children were very excited to hear about the return of **French** to our timetable this half term. We will build on our previous learning and then develop our descriptive skills looking at adjectives of colour, size and shape.

Our **PE** units this half term will see us developing, coordination, balance and timings through dance on Tuesdays, whilst, 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 also 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.

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.

Maths

This half term we are kicking off with a fractions unit where the children will explore unit and non-unit fractions of simple 2D shapes. Then we will move on to further develop our calculation skills to work out fractions of amounts. Shape will continue to be a theme as we develop our Geometry knowledge and skills. The children will not only name and categorise 2D and 3D shapes but also look at angles in shapes too, before translating their angle skills to look at angles as a turn in movement. Whilst working on these, we will still be practising mental and written methods for the four main operations, working on our times tables and developing our problem-solving skills by tackling a range of one and two-step problems and tasks.

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. Please complete this alongside the 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 Mondays 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.

Water Bottles: Water bottles 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.