



5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, everybody! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas / winter break and got some well deserved rest after a busy first term.

*This term our overall theme is 'Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis'. Our first big question of the year will be 'What makes the Earth angry?'.*

**Class novels:** *Escape from Pompeii (Christina Balit) and Bill's New Frock (Anne Fine)*

**English:**

We will begin our learning in English by reading a variety of fables, including the adaptations of Aesop's Fables by Michael Rosen. We will read and compare the morals contained within each fable and consider how they apply to our everyday life. We will then write our own fable inspired by 'The Goose that laid the Golden Egg'. After this, we will read the book 'Escape from Pompeii' and use it to inspire a recount of the Mt Vesuvius eruption.

**Maths:**

In January, we will be carrying on with our multiplication and division unit, using formal written methods to solve increasingly complex problems. After that, we will study the topics of length, perimeter and area; fractions; mass and capacity; and decimals.

**Science:**

In science we are going to focus on the topic of electricity. We will learn about the parts contained in a series circuit and how they all work together. Moreover, we will focus on how to conduct fair tests and demonstrate different ways of reporting our findings.

**PE:** There will be no more swimming this term. The class will continue to have one lesson a week with Mrs Speight and one lesson with Mrs Cain. Over the term, we will be focusing on racquet sports, netball and cricket; learning the rules and fundamental skills of movement.

**RE:** Throughout the term we will continue to learn about Christianity, focusing on answering the question 'What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?'. In addition, we will learn about Hinduism and answer the question 'Why is family an important part of Hindu life?'.

**Geography:** As it is our main focus for the term, geography will be a busy subject. We are going to be answering the question 'What makes the Earth angry?'. To do this, we are going to investigate how volcanoes erupt, how earthquakes are caused and why tsunamis occur. Moreover, we will be thinking about the impact of these events on humans by considering the question 'Is it better to be rich in times of trouble?'.

**History:** To complement our learning in geography, we will look at natural disasters throughout history and how they impacted human life at the time. We will focus on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius near Pompeii and how the Roman civilization was impacted.

**French:** We will start the term with the topic 'en classe' when we will focus on gender in French; singular and plural nouns; adjectival agreement; and numbers to 20. We will then move on to the topic of 'la santé' (health) when we will learn how to express opinions about healthy eating.

**Art:** Soap sculptures: we will be designing and creating soap sculptures. We will also be creating printed mosaics inspired by Roman architecture and design.

**Design Technology:** We are focusing on food technology. We will study the way that food is grown, the climate it is grown in and how that affects its taste. We will then create our own seasonal tarts/crumbles.

**Computing:** We will learn how to create digital programmes using the software '**Scratch**'.

**Music:** We will focus on the composer Andrew Lloyd-Webber and use Charanga to improve our singing and musical skills.

### **PE**

PE will take place on Monday and Friday afternoons. On Monday, this will be led by Mrs Speight and Friday's lesson will be led by Mrs Cain. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times.

### **Outdoor learning**

We will be taking our learning outdoors often so it would be useful for your child to have a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

### **Snacks**

Children can buy toast at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

### **Homework**

Our homework will continue to focus on our key skills in maths and English. We would be very grateful if you would support your child at home with the following:

**Daily reading** - All children should read a quality text of an appropriate level that they bring into school each day and take home each night, completing their reading record daily. Our suggested independent reads for this term are 'Window' by Jeannie Baker and 'The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas' by David Almond. Children will read books from a structured reading scheme until we decide they are ready to become a 'free reader'. We ask that everyone reads for a minimum of twenty minutes daily. Reading records will be checked daily and if not completed, children will be supported with their daily reading at the lunchtime reading club.

**Weekly spellings** - These will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. Spellings for the whole term will be sent home and will also be available on the class page of the website. Please support your child in learning their five weekly spellings.

**Times tables** - These should be practised regularly at home; knowing these is crucial and the expectation of the national curriculum is that all children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. This means being able to recite times tables. and knowing related division facts 5 times 6 is 30, 30 divided by 5 is 6.

**Maths and SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar)** - The children will continue to be set a page of short questions from each book to complete for homework. This will be set on a Tuesday and due in by Friday.

If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or in person at the beginning or end of the school day.

Best wishes,

Mrs Cain