

# Our whole school theme for this term is “Our Amazing Planet!”

We hope the following information is useful in supporting your child in his or her work at school and at home. The children in Class 3 will get homework once a week; this will be given on a Friday and should be returned on a Tuesday. This will be linked to work done in class that week; it could be Literacy, Mathematics or Topic based. I also would encourage them to practise their spellings and times tables at home as well as reading to an adult as much as possible. The children will get a star sticker to go on our reading chart in the classroom if they read at home; a coloured star for 3 times a week, a silver star for 4 times a week and a gold star for 5 times a week. I do not mind what they read at home, it does not have to be their reading book. However, if you could log it in their reading records and sign, that would be brilliant! Thank you.

Mrs Grainger

## Literacy

We will be starting our Literacy lessons by writing a diary entry based on a film clip of a tsunami, focusing on feelings and empathy for the character. We will be comparing the points of view of different characters in the clip. Through reading newspaper articles, they will then find out about natural disasters that have occurred around the world. Once the children have studied these disasters in depth, they will then write their own explanations and information texts. The children will read a variety of texts, deconstructing them to gain an understanding of the structure and language used. After which, they will plan and write their own. Our Literacy this term links well with Geography.

Each week the children will be developing their comprehension skills and will be guided reading in book talk sessions, looking at both fiction (Running Wild and Escape from Pompeii) and non-fiction texts linked to Rivers, volcanoes, earthquakes and mountains. During lessons, the children will be given the opportunity to develop their speaking and listening skills through role play. Every Friday, the children will be given ten new spellings to learn based on a spelling rule we have investigated during the week or from the year 3/4 spelling list. They will then be tested on these the following Friday.

## Mathematics

The children will develop their mathematical skills, working at a level which is appropriately challenging for their ability, focusing on the scheme of work called ‘white rose maths’. This scheme allows the children to focus more on developing their knowledge through problem solving and reasoning. Both year groups will start with a block on multiplication and division. The children will learn written methods as well as using their times tables knowledge to help them with mental arithmetic. Year 3 will go on to looking at money- adding and subtracting money and giving change. Then there will be a focus on statistics- pictograms, tables and bar charts. Measurement- measuring length, converting mm and cm, measuring perimeter and then fractions- tenths and finding fractions of a set of objects.

Year 4 will move on to looking at area- comparing and finding the area of rectangles and compound shapes, fractions- equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and problem solving based on fractions and finally looking at decimals- recognising tenths and hundredths.

## Science

The science topic for this term is animals. We will be comparing these to our last topic of plants. The children will be identifying and naming animals in specific food groups, looking at food chains, the water cycle and the human body, including teeth and the digestive system.

## Information and Communication Technology

ICT this term is linked to our Science work. This project includes activities using Google Earth to explore zoos around the world, designing a webpage that incorporates infographics, animal adaptation, food webs, creating a conservation campaign (script writing, video editing & t-shirt design), exploring the work of Henri Rousseau (colour, pattern, camouflage), digital art, data handling - investigating animal numbers in zoos and designing a digital zoo map.

## **Religious Education**

Our topic will be 'saints and heroes'. We will be exploring the teachings of significant people in different faiths and looking at how they made life changing commitments. We will also be linking this to the 'heroes' that have helped us during natural disasters.

There will also be a focus on Easter.

## **MFL**

Focusing on French, the children will be looking at numbers, age, adjectives, connectives, days of the week and they will start to give opinions about colours and animals. Using the Ilanguages programme, the children are beginning to not only be able to say sentences in French but also write the sentences themselves.

## **Topic work- History and Geography**

Our topic within 'Our amazing Planet' is natural disasters. We will be looking at all natural disasters but focusing on volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. We will look at earthquake zones, how they occur, what happens when an earthquake strikes, compare before and after, living in an earthquake zone and how tsunamis happen. When looking at volcanoes, we will look at the Ring of Fire, locate key volcanoes and countries along the ring of fire, compare data, understand and explain the key processes in physical geography related to plate tectonics. As well as studying Mount St Helens.

We will also be studying mountains and rivers. We will identify the position and longitude and latitude and Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zone, explain how the continents formed on the earth's crust, look at the Himalayas, investigate which is the tallest mountain and present with evidence, explore the route mountain explorers take up Mount Everest, explore animals that live in the Himalayas and locate on a map and identify the impact of explorers on the Sherpa living in Nepal.

We will be learning the water cycle and link the rivers with making bridges.

## **Art & Design Technology**

The children will be focusing on Design Technology this term and this will be linked to our topic. We will be inspired by the book 'One Plastic Bag', learning different stitches to then be able to design and make a bag that can be reused instead of needing to use plastic bags.

## **Music**

The children will be learning the guitar once a week on a Tuesday and will be having percussions sessions on a Wednesday morning.

## **Physical Education**

The children will be taking part in circuit training activities and multi-skills. This will include lots of ball skills, as well as coordination and spatial awareness. They will also be a dance unit linked to our extreme Earth. The children need their PE kits on a Tuesday and a Wednesday.

## **PSHCE**

There will be a focus on the PSHE programme 'Laughology: happy centred schools'. Our topic within this programme is based around learning strategies to cope with different situations, this will link to how people cope in the aftermath of a natural disaster. The children are given time to take part in circle times and any issues in school are discussed during these times.