



Year 4
Spring 1 Newsletter
Our Topic: Natural Disasters

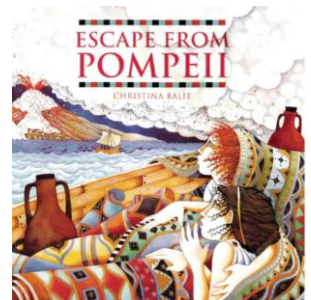


Welcome back to the new term – we hope you had an enjoyable break. Last term saw lots of collaborative learning in all subjects; in Humanities we worked together to learn about the physical geography of planet Earth, and in Science we explored how animals and plants can be classified. The children wrote exciting adventure stories and persuasive texts and improved their understanding of short division in Maths. We are really looking forward to our new topic – Natural Disasters!

ENGLISH

What we will do: We will be reading a short story called ‘Escape from Pompeii’ and using this as inspiration to write letters in the role of someone who has escaped a natural disaster. We will then be writing stories full of suspense, using dialogue and carefully selected language to keep the reader on their toes! Alongside our letter and story writing, we will be developing editing skills and improving the fluency of our joined handwriting.

What you could do to support: Read books and watch age-appropriate videos about natural disasters. Ask your child to note down vocabulary linked to natural disasters that they could use in their own writing. Ask your child to write a letter to a friend or family member - support them in planning 3 or 4 paragraphs, writing a draft, editing and publishing it neatly.



READING

Our class book this half term is *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit

We will be using this book to practice our skills in making predictions and using extracts from the text when retrieving information.

We will also be reading *The Roman Mysteries – The Secrets of Vesuvius* by Caroline Lawrence.

MATHS

What we will do: We will be learning how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000 then use these skills to solve problems involving known number facts. We will be solving problems including fractions and continuing to use reasoning to explain each of our methods. We will continue to practise our times tables, using a variety of methods to ensure we have a solid understanding and can use what we know help us divide.

What you could do to support: Find out which times tables your child is least confident with e.g. 7x8 and 9x12. Focus on just these facts, asking them questions when they are least expecting it, such as while they are brushing their teeth or queueing in a shop. When they are confident, move onto two new times tables. Short, regular practise is best for retention.

SCIENCE

We will be practising how to carry out a well-planned and fair investigation drawing upon the Scientific topics we studied in Year 3 and Year 4 so far. We will be analysing data collected and suggesting ways in which the investigations could be improved.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our focus will be on 'Judaism' and which festivals are celebrated throughout Jewish calendar.

ART AND DESIGN

We will be designing and making clay pots using the clay pots found in Pompeii as inspiration.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

We will learn about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD and find out how volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis are caused.

MUSIC

We will be beginning to learn chords on the Ukulele and continuing to improve our musicality by singing together.

Outdoor PE – Football. We will be practising passing the ball over distances, controlling the ball and competing in small-sided games. **Indoor PE: Gymnastics.** We will be learning different ways to move before putting together a volcano themed sequence of balances, rolls and turns.

Trips

We will be visiting the Natural History museum to go on the Earthquake simulator and take part in a Earthquake and Volcanoes workshop. Letters with more details will follow.

Poplar and Pine: Friday 23rd January
Ash and Oak: Monday 26th January

Year 4 Checklist

- Children should be confident with all of their times tables up to 12x12 by the summer term of Year 4. Please ensure you support your child in practicing these (and their related division facts) for a few minutes each day.
- Please make sure your child comes to school with a coat every day, even if it is sunny first thing. Make sure the coat has a hood and that it is labelled with their first name and surname.
- It would be fantastic if your child is reading for at least 15 minutes a day. If you are struggling to motivate your child to read, make a note in their reading record or arrange a meeting with their class teacher who will be able to offer some help.
- Make sure you have downloaded the Weduc app to ensure you receive information from the school including trips, clubs and events.

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who is making sure that their children attend school every day and arrive on time. We know how important regular attendance is to children's education and to their future success; we really appreciate your support.



Learning at Home

Children have access to a range of online platforms that will support their learning in key skills as well as with topics that they are learning currently in school. All children have their own log-ins for Times Tables Rock Stars as well as a school log-in for Linguascope.

If you need a reminder of your child's log-in details, please ask their teacher.