



English: Reading and Writing

In our English lessons we continue to develop reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills. The children learn a text to help them improve their language and organisational skills. They use this text as a springboard to use their growing vocabulary and grammar skills to improve the text and then move on to write their own text in a similar style. We will start by emulating **Newspaper reports** and then use a story based in Pompeii for Volcano Day!

Some of the skills the children should be using in their writing are: **descriptive devices** such as adverbials of time, manner and place; **figurative language** such as simile, metaphor and alliteration; how to vary the openers of sentences using **fronted adverbials**, and **subordinate clauses** and using ambitious vocabulary or **synonyms**. Please spend time with your child, asking them about these skills and practicing them at home. Remember to hear your child **read daily**. Ask them questions about what they have read. Support them to learn their spellings each week. You could encourage them to retell some of their favourite stories to you or learn a poem together. This will all add to your child's confidence as both a reader and a writer. We will explore a new class novel together to foster a greater enjoyment of reading longer books, and develop their inference and deduction skills as well as learning to be inquisitive readers.

Computing

This half term our unit is called '**We are Musicians**'. This unit will enable the children to:

- use one or more programs to edit music
- create and develop a musical composition, refining their ideas through reflection and discussion
- develop collaboration skills
- develop an awareness of how their composition can enhance work in other media.

Maths

This half term children will study the following areas of maths...

**Decimals and Fractions:**

We will count in fractional steps and find fractions of amounts, explore equivalent fractions and simplify fractions. Children will be introduced to decimals, place them on a line, and compare them. They also multiply and divide decimals by 10 & 100 and learn to add or subtract them.

**Multiplication and Division:**

This will include: finding factors and multiples; multiplying by partitioning and calculating division with remainders.

*Remember, to succeed your child needs you to help them practice. Children need constant rehearsal of times tables as well as addition and subtraction, both in their heads and on paper. Ask your child to explain the methods taught at school. Ask them to total your shopping before you get to the checkout, Help them to learn how to read a clock confidently.*

[www.nrich.maths.org](http://www.nrich.maths.org)

[www.nnparenttoolkit.org.uk](http://www.nnparenttoolkit.org.uk)

Spring Term

As part of our **topic based learning** this half term, the children will explore different aspects of our dangerous planet and how disasters can have an effect people in different parts of the world. We will end our half term exploring our learning in real life with a hand's on engaging experience at the **National History Museum**.



**OUR DANGEROUS PLANET**

RE: Christianity

Children will be exploring Christian views and making links between how belief systems express themselves through values and commitments. Children will also compare their own attitudes, values and behaviours to Christianity. We will be studying Usain Bolt's influence as a famous Christian.

French

Children will continue to further develop their conversational French skills by learning the vocabulary needed to introduce members of their family. Vocabulary learnt last term will be consolidated.

This term your child continues taking part in a research project being carried out by **Royal Holloway, University of London**, to investigate whether learning about nature and science in the outdoors could help to improve their wellbeing, mood, educational attainment, connection to nature.

Science: States of Matter

Children will become experts in States of Matter! Children will learn how materials can change from one state to another through a large range of simple practical enquiries.

They will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases and observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, by measuring or researching the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C). We will also identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Topic : Our Dangerous Planet

At the end of the term, children will be able to describe the properties of the Earth's layers and explain how a volcano is formed. They will be able to describe what happens when a volcano erupts and identify some risks and benefits of living near a volcano. They will know the reasons for and be able to explain why earthquakes occur. They will explore how tsunamis occur and explain how to keep safe in a tsunami. They will explore and investigate why tornadoes happen and where they usually form.

Homework

Your child has a homework booklet with activities to complete each week for **Spellings**.

Your child also has weekly homework for **Maths and Grammar** and should be **reading every day**.

Additionally, your child has an online log-in for **MY MATHS, Times Tables Rockstars and BUG CLUB**. They are expected to complete online maths homework, times tables activities and reading.

Other homework:

There is an expectation that all children in Year 4 **read to an adult every day** at home and **learn their tables by heart to 12x12**.

Every child should complete at least 2 activities from the homework **projects**.