January 2019

Extreme Earth and Plundering Planets

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another new and exciting term. This term's topic is full with dramatic events and awe-inspiring facts. We will be looking at the impact of the Extreme Earth and its natural disasters, as well as the wider galaxy and universe.

In English, we will be creating 'magazines' on disasters, with each child contributing a piece of text for their groups publication. The children will be encouraged to stretch the boundaries of factual writing by using a variety of genres to share their information.

In a few weeks time, the class will be set a long-term homework project on an aspect of space—more details to follow.

Science will tie in with our project, as on Tuesdays, Mrs Pollard works with the children on fossils and soils, light and Earth in space. They will continue to consolidate how to plan and carry out investigations.

In Maths, we will be starting with all aspects of fractions and then moving onto decimals and percentages. We will also be looking at measurement including angles, area, perimeter, volume and problem solving. It is important that the children continue to practise their number facts and learn the maths knowledge on the revision paperwork given out in February to support our work.

Adding to the excitement this term, we will also be launching a new project: Design-it Make-it, which will be used alongside the Extreme Earth topic. The children will be considering ideas that could be developed that would support the survival of people caught up in areas devastated by natural disasters.

In Computing, the children will be continuing to develop their understanding of the Microsoft programs, including Word, Publisher and Excel.

Our Open Futures sessions this first half term will be Ask-It, where the children will use their philosophical skills to consider how 'natural' are natural disasters?; space?; and what has all this got to do with God, beliefs, science...? In the second half term, it will be over to Mrs Pollard and Grow-It, so gardening clothes will be needed.

During PE, the children will be developing skills in dance and fitness and in a variety of invasion games. Full PE Kits in every day please, but particularly Mondays and Fridays.

In Art/DT, the children will be creating fabric collages using a variety of techniques and materials to create images representing the extreme Earth or plundering planets.

In RE, in the first half term, Oak class will be studying the religion of Islam and understanding the similarities between this and other religions across the World, including Christianity. We will focus on the Five Pillars of Islam, prayer, the Qur'an, Mohammed and Ramadan. In the second half of the year we will be considering 'What difference does the resurrection make?' as we lead up to Easter.

We will also continue developing our French language skills.

After half term, as the NCTs for year 6 approach, the year 5s will work in Holly Class for 3 mornings a week. During this time, the year 6s will be consolidating, revising and boosting their knowledge and understanding of the KS2 curriculum.

Spellings— These should be practised daily, using the spelling timetable as a guide for the activities. If an activity does not fit the spelling list, any other activity can be completed. Please check and sign their spellings daily. The spelling and the activity list are on our website although the spelling list may sometimes change as we focus on any misspellings that repeatedly rear their ugly heads .

Reading—The children should read everyday (hopefully for pleasure), and even in year 5 and 6, there is a great benefit in reading, sharing and discussing a text with an adult. A comment by your child or yourselves is really useful, as well as your signature to show they have read at least 5 times weekly.

Project– During this term, the children will be set a project over 8-10 weeks based on space as indicated above. This is to help children prepare for secondary school with organisation and time.