



STJB Rowan Class



Extreme Earth and Plundered Planets

Spring 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

Happy New Year! Welcome back to an exciting term. Key Stage 2 are studying 'Extreme Earth' and in Rowan, we will be focussing some of our attention on how the planet's resources have been plundered, and what we can now do to reduce our effect on the Earth. The children have started the term asking questions about volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and extreme weather conditions which we will research this half term. In the second half term, we will move on to look at our Earth in space.

In English, we will be looking at newspaper recounts, instructional texts, book reviews and non-chronological writing. There will be a chance to join us for a Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling workshop in March (details to follow). You will then be invited to join the children throughout the school as they apply these skills to their writing.

In Maths, we will continue to learn about multiplication and division and how to apply these in a variety of real life contexts, before moving on to looking at money. This will be followed by units on statistics, length and perimeter and finally fractions. The Maths Planet challenges will continue to be a major part of supporting the children's mental strategies and we will be applying the skills learnt from them to more formal arithmetic and problem solving activities.

Our Science will tie in with our topic work as we look at rocks and soils, light and Earth in Space. They will be learning how to plan and carry out investigations, although there are no plans for trips into space—yet!.

A major part of our learning this term will be based around a 'Design it' project, looking at ideas old and new that could better support the survival of people caught up in an area devastated by a natural disaster. The children have been asked to think of some potential needs of people caught up in these disasters over the coming weeks.

In our Open Futures sessions this half term Rowan class will be taking part in 'Film it' activities with Mr. Cumming, many linked to E-Safety, and using computer technology to effectively convey this message. In the second half term, Rowan will be revisiting P4C with Mrs. Stoner.

During PE, the children will be developing skills in a variety of invasion and net/wall games, and continuing with their indoor dance sessions.

The children should have their full P.E. kit in at all times, but always on Mondays and Wednesdays .

In R.E. along with the rest of KS2, we will be looking at Islam, focussing on the Five Pillars of Islam, Prayer, the Qur'an Muhammed and Ramadan. The second half of term, and building up to Easter, the children will be looking at the question, 'Why do Christians call the day that Jesus died 'Good Friday'?'

French will continue on a Monday afternoon.

In Art, the children will use mixed media and will learn how to block print to produce four images using Hokusai's 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' as a starting point. They will also use the science topic of 'light' as a stimulus for shadow art.

The children will continue to work in Talk Partners to improve their independent and collaborative skills. These will be moved around on a regular basis.

This is just an outline of the work Rowan Class will be exploring this term.

Homework: Spelling — Children will have new spellings every week. They need to practise them in their homework books at least 5 times, preferably in small chunks over the week, and write each one in to a sentence. This is also on the school website. Please check and sign your child's spelling work each week.

Reading — the children are expected to read (with an adult wherever possible) 5 times a week. Please sign and make comments in their yellow reading record book to acknowledge that this has been completed.

Maths Planets challenge—The children will be expected to learn their Planet Challenge ready for a weekly test.

I hope the children enjoy the above curriculum, which provides the vehicle for many learning skills, knowledge and concepts. If you have any questions or queries about anything that would further help your child, then please either email me using the school office address or make an appointment before or after school so we can talk together.