



Hello,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. It has been wonderful hearing the children share their holiday adventures. We have an exciting Spring term ahead!

This half-term, we will be exploring two engaging topics: **Light** and **Extreme Earth**. These themes will be woven through our English, Science, Geography and Whole Class Reading lessons. In our **Light** unit, the children will investigate what light is, identify different light sources, explore how shadows are formed. They will also consider the importance of light in our daily lives. Our **Extreme Earth** topic will introduce the children to some of nature's most powerful forces, including volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and tornadoes.

There is a change to our PE timetable this term. The children will have an additional PE lesson on **Wednesday**, led by Oscar Jones, with a focus on cricket. Derby County sessions will continue on Wednesday afternoons. As both weekly PE sessions will now take place on Wednesday, **there will be no PE on Thursday**. Children will therefore only need to come to school in their PE kit once a week. Cricket sessions may take place outdoors (weather permitting), so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the colder months.


New spellings will continue to be set every **Friday**, with a spelling test the following Friday. Please support your child in practising these using their preferred method. We also recommend that children access **TTRockstars or Numbots three times a week** to help develop their fluency in times tables and number. Rewards and certificates will be available for children who log on at home. This only needs to be for at least 5 minutes. Supervision is key so that you can support your child in the times tables or number facts that they may be taking longer to answer.

Alongside spellings, TTRockstars and Numbots, children should be reading regularly at home. This only needs to be a couple of pages each time. If your child finishes their book quickly, please encourage them to read it again to reinforce vocabulary, retrieval and overall understanding. Asking your child questions about what they have read is especially important for fiction texts.

Attached is our new **homework Menu**, which links closely to our Light and Extreme Earth topics. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to catch me at the end of the day or contact me via email through the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss King

<p><u>Science- Light</u></p> <p>Throughout this unit, the children will explore light, reflections, and shadows. In the beginning of this unit, the children will understand that a light source is something that produces and gives out light. They will also be able to identify that light sources can be natural or made by humans. We will discuss, compare and explain that the sun is our main natural light source and the moon is not a light source because it does not produce its own light. We will develop this knowledge by looking at opaque and translucent materials and how these materials affect and blocks light to form shadows. By the end of the unit, we will be able to explain the importance of reflective light and how this impacts safety, and our every day lives.</p>	<p><u>French</u></p> <p>The children will be exploring different fruits. Throughout this half term the children will learn how to say a range of different fruits, give opinions and ask specific questions.</p>	<p><u>Geography</u> <u>Extreme Earth</u></p> <p>Throughout this topic children about the destructive powers of nature, from volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and tornadoes. This term, children will learn about mountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes, including where they occur and how they are formed. They will explore the Earth's layers, tectonic plates and the movement of continents over time. Pupils will also study the highest mountains in the UK, compare them to famous mountains worldwide, and understand the impact of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Through maps and discussions, they will develop a deeper understanding of physical geography and natural disasters.</p>
<p><u>English</u></p> <p>We will begin with our focus topic: light to produce an explanation text. Our example text is called 'The Night Hunter' looking at life as nocturnal animals. The children will explore a variety of techniques and features, for example: headings, overarching information and cause & effect techniques to produce their very own.</p> <p>The children will also be creating a persuasive advert. This will be based on the 'extreme weather survival suitcase' the children will be creating throughout their Geography lessons.</p>	<p>Year 3 Spring 1</p> 	<p><u>Maths</u> <u>Multiplication and Division</u></p> <p>We shall be continuing our topic of Multiplication and Division. The children will build on their knowledge of equal groups and use arrays to enhance their knowledge of the link between repeated addition and multiplication and to explore commutativity. They will be able to recognise that 3 lots of 5 is equal to 5 lots of 3. We will then bring together their knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 3, 4 and 8 in order to become more fluent in these times tables. We will use fact families and manipulatives, as well as pictorial representations to make links between multiplication and division.</p>
<p><u>Art</u></p> <p>Our key focus this term is 'Sculpture and 3D: Abstract shape and space'. We will explore how shapes and negative spaces can be represented by three dimensional forms. We will try out different ways to make card shapes three dimensional, e.g. folding and curving the card or joining the flat shapes together. We will then explore how to make a structure that holds its 3D shape and combine shapes together to make an interesting free-standing sculpture.</p>	<p><u>PE</u> <u>Netball</u></p> <p>The children will develop their passing and moving skills to outwit their opponents and keep possession of the ball. They will begin to understand key skills in netball for example: keeping possession, defending and attacking. The children will also apply an understanding of where, when and why we pass and move, in order to score points against another.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">team. <u>Cricket</u></p> <p>The children will work towards developing their throwing, catching and batting skills to score against their opponents. They will also develop their understanding on the difference between attack and defence (batting and fielding).</p>	<p><u>Music</u></p> <p>Our music this half term will focus on exploring arrangements. The children will develop their own arrangements of different songs and explore how musicians have created different arrangements of the same piece.</p>

RE

Our key question for this half term will be 'Are scriptures central to religion?'. We will look at the significance of scripture to some Jewish, Christian and Muslim people.

PSHE- Exploring emotions.

Throughout this topic we will be exploring the different emotions, what they can mean and the different ways we can manage them.

Computing

Our key focus this term is: Online safety. The children will explore different information that is shared online, including facts, beliefs and opinions. They will learn how to identify reliable information when searching online. We will also be holding discussions around: that not everything on the internet is true: people share facts, beliefs and opinions online. We will be navigating computers and look closely at privacy settings which limit who can access important personal information, such as names, ages and gender.