



Welcome to Starfish Class



Autumn 1 2022

Welcome to Starfish Class - the beginning of another exciting year of learning. Working with the class this year will be Mrs Williams, Mrs Dilleigh, Miss Warren and Mrs Mould.

We have introduced some class cuddly toys. These will be revealed over the coming weeks as the children will have opportunities throughout the year to bring them home for the weekend. Each toy will come with a diary to detail his or her adventures along with drawings and/or photos. The diaries will be available for the children to read during the week so they can follow their adventures so please ensure the cuddly toys as well as the diaries are returned **each** Monday.

Our learning for this half term

Our topic this term is a Geography unit '**Angry Earth**'. This will focus on Volcanoes and Earthquakes. We have already been learning about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii, Italy.

The children will discover the answers to the following questions during the topic:

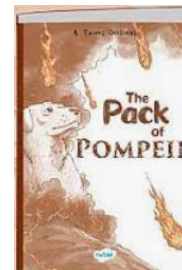
- What's beneath your feet? (The layers of the Earth's surface)
- How and why does a volcano erupt?
- Where are volcanoes/earthquakes located?
- Why do people choose to live near volcanoes and what are the dangers?
- How does an Earthquake happen and what effects can it cause?



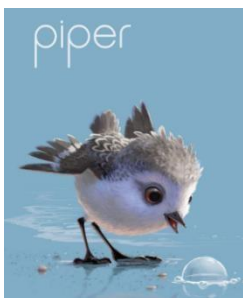
There will be optional homework tasks on the class page linked to volcanoes which children may choose to complete and share in class if they wish. There is no expectation to complete any of these tasks but the children may want to; they are already showing great enthusiasm for the topic! 😊 No rewards or sanctions will be applied for these tasks.

Class Book

We are reading a short story this term called 'The Pack of Pompeii'. This is linked to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and is told from an animal point of view rather than a human perspective.

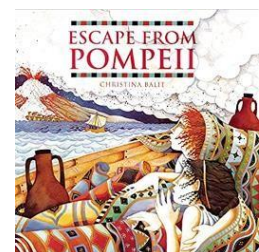


English



At the start of this half term, the whole school took part in a writing activity based on Disney Pixar's 'Piper' short film. The children have already written their own stories retelling the story of Piper's journey from being terrified of the ocean to loving it. It is a beautiful clip, well worth a watch.

Our next English topic explores a fabulous book by Christina Balit: 'Escape from Pompeii'. The focus will be on setting descriptions. After that, we will analyse and write our own volcano poems.



Spellings

The children will be given spellings to practise in class, where they will learn the rule and use these spellings for handwriting practise too. They will have a weekly test on the spelling; this is planned for Fridays to see how well the children have retained their knowledge. An overview of the spellings patterns this half term has been added to the class page should parents who wish to explore spellings further with children at home. Due to it being their first week of spellings and the Bank Holiday we will take a bit more time on the first spelling pattern. Weekly spelling lists will **not** be sent home.

Maths:

Our focus for this half term will be Place Value and Number, including:

- Place value
- Addition and subtraction

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: Rocks
- PE – Athletics (Thursday), Fitness (Wednesdays)
- Art - Collage linked to the volcano work of Margaret Godfrey
- Music - Brass (starting w.c 19.9.22)
- PSHE - TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)
- French - Tuesday afternoon (with Madam Duncan)
- Computing - Connecting computers linked to using laptops effectively and safely as well as being familiar with basic software
- Religious Education - What is it like to be a Hindu in Britain

Supporting learning at home:

Spellings: These will be taught in school and lists will **not** be sent home to learn. A spelling overview with some example words will be available on the class page shortly.

Reading: Every child needs to read every day; including weekends. In the juniors, children should aim to read for at least 15-20 minutes and talk to an adult about what they have read. Children will be given a reading journal to record their reading. During this half term, children will be supported in setting up and organising this journal and they should be in school **every** day. As the year progresses, children will become more independent in organising their own journal with parents merely needing to hear them read and sign once they have completed their diary. We have a whole class reading challenge. This includes individual certificates and raffle tickets as they move up the challenge and culminates in a whole class treat when the class reach the top. Thus, we appreciate parents support in checking and encouraging children to update their reading regularly and listening to children read.

Homework:

- This will start in the coming weeks, once the children have had time to settle in. Further information to follow. Once homework starts, you are welcome to support your child with tasks but please ensure if they are struggling they know they can ask any of us for help. We often supply answer sheets so you can mark the work with your child so any misconceptions can be addressed.

- We don't want homework to be a source of stress or anxiety, only an extension of the children's learning at school. If your child is struggling with their homework, please stop and bring it in to school. An adult will go through it with them.

Useful information:

Coats: Please make sure your child brings a coat every day. All items of clothing, bags etc should be named. If it isn't, we can't return them!

PE: Children need to bring in a full PE kit to change in school. As the weather starts to get colder, we recommend joggers and a jumper/hoodie in addition to shorts and T-shirts. Please also make sure that your child has a named water bottle. In Autumn one, we will have PE lessons on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday**.

If you have any questions to ask, or have information to tell us, please get in touch via the school office (julie.carter@littleeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk or 01332 831471). One of us will also be available on the playground at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Dilleigh, Mrs Williams, Miss Warren & Mrs Mould

Year 3 staff