Waddesdon Village Primary School
Pathway to Excellence
Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter
Autumn 2

Topic: Extreme Earth

Welcome back, Class 4!

I can't believe we are already in Autumn 2 – it has flown by! Class 4, well done for the progress made over the first half term – let's continue to work hard, work together and have fun.

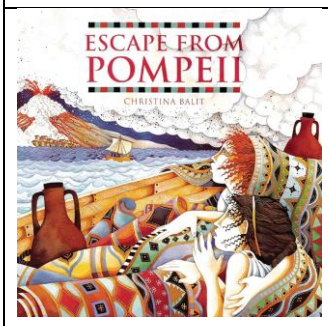
This half term, we are moving on from mountains to learn about volcanoes. I am hoping that the Extreme Earth unit planned will be interesting and enjoyable for the class.

As always, if there is anything that you wish to discuss, please feel free to contact me.

Mr Irwin

Weekly schedule

Monday:	Hand in homework & reading records
Tuesday:	Swimming (departing at 8:50)
Wednesday:	PE (Exposure Sport) and Mrs Jones teaching in the afternoon
Thursday:	Homework given out



English
Our core text for this half term is a book called 'Escape from Pompeii'. This story has links to our Geography topic. Using this text, we will be able to understand the timeline of events at Pompeii when Vesuvius erupted in AD79, and we will read about how any survivors managed to get away. We will be using this text to write a descriptive recount of the events in Pompeii. This text has rich vocabulary and the language should encourage lots of class discussion. We will then move onto a short video called 'The Creature' which will inspire a newspaper report.

Mathematics
This half term, children will be concentrating on calculating the perimeter of different shapes, both regular and irregular. We will concentrate on the multiplication and division operations and their related facts. The expectation is that children know all their tables up to 12X12 by the end of Year 4 and this will help them with these methods. We will not only be looking at formal written methods but working to improve mental maths skills. Throughout all maths units the pupils will have the opportunity to practise their problem solving and reasoning skills, in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.

Computing
This half term, the children will learn how to code using the Purple Mash program, this will allow the children to apply their knowledge learnt from the previous Logo unit.

Science
The topic this half term is Sound. Children will be looking at how sound is made, objects that make sound, and volume and pitch. They will also look at how sound travels through our ears to our brain. During this topic, we will also focus on investigative skills.

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PE
On Tuesday mornings, we will be going swimming.
On Wednesday PE lessons, led by an Exposure Sports coach, the children will be exploring maintaining possession in invasion games.

Music
The Kapow music scheme will be followed. This half term they will be learning about the origin and features of rock and roll music, focusing on the Hand Jive and Rock Around the Clock, looking specifically at a walking bass line, before then performing a piece as a class.



Art
We will also be studying paintings by the artist Andy Warhol, focussing on a series of 18 paintings called 'Vesuvius by Warhol' to link with our Geography topic and core text Escape from Pompeii. We will also be creating our own versions.

MFL
French will continue to be taught by Mrs Johnson on Thursday mornings. She will be following the Rigolo scheme of French work.

RE
This half term, we will be revisiting the Christmas Story with a particular focus on how symbols are used as representations. We will also discuss the symbols used in Christingle.

PSHE
This half term, pupils will follow the Kapow scheme of work. The unit is called "Families and Relationships" and the pupils will be learning about the boundaries in friendships, and how what they do and say affects other people.

Geography
We will continue our unit about mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. The children will investigate Tectonic Plates and the Earth's crust to find out how earthquakes and volcanoes occur. Our core text will help us to understand the destruction that can be caused.

How you can support your child at home?
Children will be receiving home learning which is due in on a Monday. Home learning will be linked to what the children are learning in Maths and English.
As a school, we are continuing to have a big push on children reading for pleasure. To support this, please could you encourage your children to read every night. Rich texts can be accessed via our 'Rocket Reading Challenge'.
Pupils will continue to have weekly times tables tests. Please could you help your children practise these and complete set tasks on 'Times Tables Rock Stars'.
Your support is vital and much appreciated.
Please feel free to arrange to see me or talk on the phone, should you ever need to – please email via the school office. Mr Irwin

Important Dates:

Wednesday 11th November PAWS disco

Thursday 12th November Open afternoon 2:30pm

Friday 13th November Children in Need mufti day

W/C Monday 16th November Assessment week

Friday 4th December PAWS Christmas outfit day

Friday 18th December Christmas party