

# Upton St. James C.E. Primary School

Headteacher: Claire Prynne

24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new half term. We hope your child has an enjoyable and productive time.

Our topic this half term will be: 'Would the world crumble without rocks? Discuss both scenarios' An information sheet is attached to this letter with key words relating to our topic. Please spend some time with your child to discuss the pictures and the words provided. This will help them in class and allow you to be a part of their learning. Children's learning and skills will be linked to this topic where appropriate through the following work in the different subject areas:

Science	Rocks and Soils	RE	Why do Christians believe they are 'people on a mission'?
History	Dinosaurs and Fossils	P.E	Tennis Athletics
Art	Printing	Computing	Toy Designers - Computational Thinking

Literacy and numeracy lessons take place daily. Children will be following the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme in order to support their independent learning skills and will also be exploring the right to work in a group (UNCRC Article 15) by working together to take part in scientific enquiries involving rocks and fossils.

Outdoor and indoor PE lessons may change times according to the weather and/or availability of the hall so please ensure your child's PE kit is in school at all times and clearly labelled.

## Reading

Children on book bands will be expected to read at home for **10-15 minutes every night** and free readers at least **3 times per week**, either independently or with an adult. Children bring home reading diaries to record comments on the books they are reading. These comments should relate to reading matters only - any other questions/comments need to be communicated to the class teacher in a separate note. Please sign the reading diaries to show that your child has read. This is really important as it is clear whether the children have read or not that evening and counts towards their reading miles. Children on book bands take book bags containing reading book and a diary home every night and bring them into school every morning. In Year 3 and 4, books and reading diaries will be checked every **Friday morning**. When a book needs changing, your child is responsible for doing this.

## Wall of Positivity Bricks:

Every two weeks children will be sent home with a Wall of Positivity brick. A Wall of Positivity brick is used to report on something positive at home your child has done and can be proud of (no action is too big or too small!). We will celebrate these positive actions and display them on our Wall of Positivity in the classroom. We will also be acknowledging positive things your child has done in class.

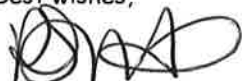
## Home Learning

At the beginning of the half term, the children will be given a homework grid. As this half term is very short, the children will need to choose only **1 project tasks** they would like to complete, allowing them more ownership of their work and more time to complete the tasks to a high standard. This task should take about 40 minutes to complete and can be completed at any point throughout the half term. Children should be encouraged to complete the task within plenty of time and not leave it until the final week of the half term. Children will also be given regular times tables practice and reading. These will be checked every Friday morning. The children's Mangahigh log-in is stuck in the front cover of their home learning books. This allows children to access the website at home in order to practise their maths skills.

Tables and number bonds tests will take place on Thursdays and the children will know which tables or number bonds they should be learning- please help them by practising at home. If your child is struggling with home learning, or taking too long, please could you, the parent/carers, write a note to explain why the work is not completed - thank you. Please encourage your child to complete homework neatly and in pencil, also focussing on handwriting. Handwriting information sheets are now attached to the front of the homework books so it is clear to the children the level of handwriting that is expected from them in school and at home.

As always, if you have any further questions, please get in touch. Thank you for your support!

Best wishes,



Miss R Osman (Class teacher)

Please sign and return this slip so that we know you received this letter.

Class Y3/4

Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Child's name.....

Parent's /Carer's Signature.....

Word list for our topic 'Would our world crumble without rocks? Discuss both scenarios'

Rocks - There are three different types of rocks; Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic.

Living - Fossils are the preserved remains of once living things.

Appearance - Rocks can be grouped together based on their appearance.

Properties - To identify different rocks, we can use their properties such as colour, hardness and texture.

Fossils - Fossils are most commonly found in sedimentary rocks.

Erosion - Ice, water and wind can cause erosion.

Organic – Soil is the organic material on the surface of the Earth.

Environment – Fossils can tell give an indication on what the environment used to be like.

Soils - Soil is the loose upper layer of the Earth's crust where plants grow.

Sedimentary - Sedimentary rocks include limestone, sandstone, chalk and coal.

Igneous - Igneous rocks include granite, basalt and pumice.

Metamorphic - Metamorphic rocks include marble and slate.

Changes - Changes in heat or pressure can affect the appearance of rocks.

Physical - Physical properties of rocks include hardness, texture, shape and size.

