

# Langtree Community School and Nursery Unit

April 2018

Dear Parents,

Please find below details of the learning that is taking place during the Summer Term.

## Literacy:

The children are currently finishing a unit of Poetry based on a text called 'A River' by Marc Martin. They are learning to use descriptive language to create their own version of the original. We will then move on to information texts where they will be creating a detailed page explaining all about mountains, earthquakes and volcanoes which is, incidentally, our Geography topic for the term. This piece of writing will take into account the use of technical vocabulary and it also places importance on choice of layout and the use of labels and captions.

As per usual, the children will also be doing a spelling lesson every morning which will focus on the use of suffixes and prefixes, homophones and less-common spellings and sounds.

## Homework info

**\*Your child will be taking part in a spelling test every Thursday afternoon. We would be grateful if you could try to ensure that they practise their spellings at home and bring their small spelling book every Thursday.**

**\*Your child will also have a book bag/reading book; even if they are a 'free reader' and choose their own books, it is extremely important that they continue to read regularly.**

## Maths:

The children will be continuing to look at 'number sense' first, which, this term, is all about understanding the values of fractions. The children will be learning how to order fractions and also how to represent them in different ways pictorially to really gain an understanding of how they are made up. We will then be moving on to 'additive reasoning', focusing on the addition and subtraction of larger numbers. We will be continuing to use the column method for addition that we started on last term and I will also be starting to introduce column subtraction as well. We will continue to improve our multiplication and division during 'multiplicative reasoning' and we will also be looking at shape and positioning during 'geometric reasoning'.

Our maths curriculum is cyclical...each term we revisit the same 4 strands of mathematics, delving deeper each time.

## Homework info

**\*Friday's homework will sometimes be maths-related to support the learning that we have been doing in class. Any exposure to maths at home is excellent practise; perhaps encourage them to count money and even pay for things whilst shopping.**

### Geography:

The children will be learning all about mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes this coming term. We will be starting by looking at the structure of our planet and how it is made up. We will be moving on to look at plate tectonics and how this leads to the formation of mountain ranges and volcanoes and how, occasionally it can lead to earthquakes and tsunamis in certain parts of the world.

### Homework ideas

**\*Take a look at this National Geographic clip about volcanoes. It's short, concise and also goes into a little about plate tectonics. (It is a 'YouTube' clip so usual discretions apply. It also shows a few seconds of Pompeii - bones etc...this shouldn't upset the children, but worth a mention)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDy28QtdYJY>

### Science:

This term the children will be learning all about plants and rocks. We will start by talking about the main physical parts of plants and will then go on to learn about how plants use photosynthesis to get their food from the sun's rays and how plants help our planet by producing Oxygen. We will then go on to learning about rocks; we will be looking at how different types of rock are formed and how their characteristics make them perfect for different uses.

### Homework ideas

**\*Find as many things around your house/garden that are made using stone or rock. Draw them (or take photos) and then label them. Bring them in and we can put them on the wall.**

### R.E

This term we will be talking about change. The children will talk about the types of change that can happen in their lives and, importantly, how they feel about various types of changes. We will be looking at and comparing how various religions cope with the idea of change.

### Homework ideas

**\*Write a paragraph about a change in your life. What was the change? How did it feel? Was it positive or negative or a mixture of both? Did it start by feeling frightening but then turn out OK? You could also draw a picture to go with your writing.**

### Art/Design

This term the children will be looking at artwork from Australia. We will start by taking a look at Aboriginal art and will be having a go at trying our own on rocks and stones, sticks and even the children's faces!

### Homework ideas

**\*Find a large, smooth stone or pebble. Use a paintbrush and some oil-based paint of various colours to decorate the stone. If you Google 'Aboriginal Art' and then click 'Images' you can see many, many different examples.**

## ICT

This term we will be looking at Microsoft PowerPoint and learning how to use it effectively as a presentational tool. We will learn how to position information in ways that we desire and will be experimenting with transitions and effects too. This will support our literacy, as we are creating an information page about mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes.

### Homework ideas

**\*If you have PowerPoint at home, have a play around with it (ask grownups first!). Create a fact file or information presentation about something that you find really interesting - a sport, a person, a movie you like...anything!**

## P.E

In P.E this term the children will be starting with striking and fielding games, this will include various types of rounders - for example, kick rounders and bat rounders. We will then move on to a short block of athletics to tie in with the (hopefully) improving weather. Finally, we will be swimming in the second half of the term.

### Homework ideas

**\*Set up an obstacle course in your garden or an outside space - enjoy the sunshine!!**

### **Homework:**

This will continue to be handed out on Friday and will often be used to support work that has taken place during the week's English or maths lessons.

This year the children will have homework books in which to complete their homework.

If you do have any questions to ask me about how you can help your child during this term's work, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest Regards

*Richard Thorne*