

Spring Term Newsletter 3/4H



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the new term! It's great to see the children continue where they left off last term; with excellent attitudes to learning. 3/4H children are proactive learners at school and at home; both in terms of homework, spellings and also finding things out for themselves. Please keep this up 3/4H and your help at home is, as always, appreciated.

Here are some of the areas we will continue to focus on until Easter:

Topic	<p>We'll learn all about the geology of volcanoes, the geography of volcanoes and famous eruptions too.</p> <p>If you've ever visited a volcano (extinct, dormant or even active!) and have a postcard please bring it in for our display.</p> 
English	<p>You may have noticed the children talking about coal mining! Our English units now focus on one specific text for a 2-3 week period. The early stages of our units are very much geared around reading and responding. In order to fully immerse in the subjects of the text, there will be elements of finding out / research and questioning in order to be 'in role.' Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be taught as part as part of these units and sometimes as separate sessions.</p>
Reading	<p>Children will be reading daily in class and participate in guided reading sessions which build fluency, comprehension and vocabulary.</p> <p>Reading daily at home with your child will really help them with their fluency and understanding. Please ask them questions, get them to think of questions, find unfamiliar words together and discuss their meanings. Please comment regularly in your child's reading record.</p>
Maths	<p>After our work on place value, number, addition and subtraction last term, we will now be focussing on multiplication and division, leading to fractions.</p> <p>Any opportunities to discuss and work practically at home with vocabulary such as <u>lots of</u>, sharing and <u>fractions</u> reinforces the children's understanding but in another context. We will have one arithmetic session per week also.</p>

Science	<p>This half term we will be learning about states of matter. Our emphasis will be on the fact that materials can be changed from one state to another by heating or cooling. We'll also focus on physical processes such as the water cycle.</p> <p>The children will be thinking of their own investigation questions to pursue and explore in a group. 'Working scientifically' skills will be emphasised in each week.</p>
PE	<p>3/4H's PE sessions will be on Monday (outdoor) and Swimming will be on Tuesday (Year 4s)</p> <p>Please remember when the children are doing outdoor PE to include long sleeved tops and tracksuit bottoms as it can be cold!</p>
Computing	<p>In Computing we will be covering our e-safety booster unit, which focusses on using the internet responsibly.</p> <p>We'll also be exploring the term database, finding out common database uses outside school and making our own database linked to our Volcanoes topic.</p>
Art and Design	<p>In art we will be looking at volcanic at English artist Nick Rowland's technique in painting volcanoes - very much inspired by Jackson Pollock.</p>

Once again, many thanks for your support with homework, spellings and learning log work. Spellings will come home weekly and will either address a particular pattern or some of the Year 3/4 statutory words. Maths or grammar homework will follow on from the week's work in class.

I am available after school should you have anything you'd like to discuss with me.

Regards,

Paul Hobbs