

Year 5/6 Newsletter

Spring 1 2026

What we are learning about:

Our topic/theme this half term is: Why Do People Live Near Volcanoes?

We will be learning:

In our geography topic, we will be answering the question 'Why do people live near volcanoes?' We will be looking at what causes volcanoes and why they erupt. After considering this, we will look into the pros and cons of why people live near volcanoes.

In Science, we will consolidate previous learning by revisiting the properties of solids, liquids and gases; learn to describe the properties of materials using scientific language; investigate which materials make the best thermal insulators; and which materials are magnetic. We will use key scientific vocabulary to describe the properties of materials (e.g. soluble and insoluble) and investigate how to separate materials using these properties. We will name separation methods (filtering, sieving, evaporation, magnets) and decide on the most efficient method for separating a mixture of materials. We will be able to describe change as reversible or irreversible.

English:

In English, we have started the term with a narrative unit based on a text that is loosely based on our class book, The Girl of Ink and Stars. We have looked at the setting and structure of this tale where an item, that is important to the main character, is stolen and they have to retrieve it. We will be using this text to explore writing our own versions of this story type.

Later in the term, we will use The Girl of Ink and Stars to develop our recount skills through diary writing. We will look at how opinion adds to the recount and shows the reader what it was like to experience the events. Our grammar focus will include adverbials of time and place and the subjunctive verb form.

Finally, to complete the term we will use 'Things You Find in a Poet's Beard' to explore performance poetry.

Mathematics:

Maths will be a continuation of the fractions work we started before Christmas. Having looked at equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions, we will use these to add and subtract fractions. Year 5 will work towards doing this with fractions where one denominator is a multiple of the other

$$\text{e.g. } \frac{1}{3} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{7}{12}.$$

Year 6 will do the same but where a lowest common multiple (LCM) will need to be found to calculate the lowest common denominator (LCD)

$$\text{e.g. } \frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{5} = \frac{10}{15} + \frac{9}{15} = \frac{19}{15}.$$

We will use fractions to find fractions of amounts e.g. $\frac{3}{5}$ of 250 = 150

Later in the term, we will begin to look at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths – fraction, whole, numerator, denominator, proper fraction, improper fraction, mixed number fraction, lowest common multiple, lowest common denominator, simplify, simplest form, equivalent, decimal, tenth, hundredth, thousandth, percentage, out-of-one-hundred.

English – noun, expanded noun phrase, relative clause, parenthesis, subordinate clause, brackets, dashes, colon, semi-colon, inverted commas, possessive apostrophe, coordinate clause, conjunction, adverbial, prepositional phrase, figurative language, simile, metaphor, alliteration, subjunctive

Topic – fault, tectonic plate, plate boundary, eruption, volcano, volcanic, magma, lava

Science – soluble, insoluble, solution, filtration, boiling, condensing, evaporation, freezing, melting point, chemical change, physical change, reversible change, irreversible change