



12th January 2017

Dear Parents,

During the Spring Term, Year 4 will be working on the IPC Topic 'Active Planet' that focuses on 'Tsunamis, Earthquakes and Volcanoes'. This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This new curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn in three different areas:

1. The subjects of the curriculum. The learning goals for each of these subjects are at least as challenging as anything taught in the curriculum. In many cases, the learning goals are more challenging.
2. Personal development – the characteristics which will help children become more responsible, independent learners.
3. International understanding – which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects. During this unit we will be focusing on Geography, Technology, Science, History, Society and International.

In Geography, we'll be finding out:

- About how the Earth is formed
- What a volcano island is and where they are in the world
- What causes an earthquake
- How earthquakes can be measured

In Technology, we'll be finding out:

- What makes buildings strong
- About protective clothing and equipment
- About how to put together a survival kit

In Science, we'll be finding out:

- About solids, liquids and gases in volcanoes
- What happens when a volcano erupts
- What happens when rock melts
- How volcanoes can give off poisonous gas

In History, we'll be finding out:

- About the devastation of Pompeii

In Society & International, we'll be finding out:

- About legends associated with volcanoes
- Why people continue to live in volcanic areas despite the dangers
- About international organisations that work after natural disasters
- About the knock-on effects of earthquakes and volcanic activity



All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach their learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you.

Talk with your child about recent earthquakes, volcanoes or tsunamis you might have read about in newspapers or seen on television.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest is most important.

By the end of the unit, we hope your child has achieved all of the learning targets and they have had an enjoyable time in the classroom. We hope you enjoy seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments or questions about your child's learning, please get in touch.

Year 4 team

