NATURAL DISASTERS!

RABBITS – AUTUMN 2026

This half-term, we'll be learning about...





PE

We will be working on hockey for the next few weeks, developing our ability to dribble, pass and shoot. We will improve our understanding of teamwork and tactics, working together and communicating clearly to attack and defend.

Computing

We will continue to develop our programming skills, using the Scratch platform (and some logical thinking). Using ready-made 'blocks' of code and *if*, *or* and *forever* loops we will create stories and simple games, which we will then test, evaluate and de-bug.

English

Our next topic will see us exploring fables, using a fantastic story called *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright as our starting point. We will begin by identifying the ingredients of fable stories - usually set in the natural world, with animal characters and a central moral message. After that, we will investigate the use of more complex sentence structures (using conjunctions like *if*, *because* and *although* to tie ideas together), along with the use of commas to separate items in a list. We will finish-off this unit by writing fables of our own.

Throughout the term we will continue to develop our spelling knowledge, adding a range of different suffixes and prefixes to root words.

Science

Solids, liquids and gases

We will be exploring 'states of matter', working out what the difference is between solids, liquids and gases and comparing the way that materials move and behave in each state. We will do lots of sorting and grouping, and will carry out experiments to see how we can change materials from one state to another through heating and cooling.

The Arts

Linked to our Disasters topic, we will be constructing models of volcanoes. We will use paper mâché to build our basic structures, and will then paint and decorate these in order to make them as realistic as possible. Finally, we will experiment with different ways of making our volcanoes explode - vinegar and bicarb should make a nice gooey mess!



Maths

We will start the half-term by getting to grips with written (column) strategies for addition and subtraction, building up to being able to add or subtract any pair of 3-digit numbers. We will then use these to solve word problems.

After that, we'll be moving on to looking at graphs and tables, creating our own bar charts and using these to answer questions. Following that, we move onto lines, angles and shapes, identifying right angles and putting angles into size order. Finally we will learn to identify parallel, perpendicular, vertical and horizontal lines and search for these in the world around us.

Humanities

Geography

We will continue to investigate volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes and other natural disasters. We will be looking at the impact these disasters have had on environments around the world, and exploring the ways in which people who live in areas where earthquakes and tsunamis are common, protect themselves against these events. We will also begin to investigate the reasons why these disasters happen - and to do that, we will need to find out more about the way the Earth is structured and the forces that move chunks of it around.

RE

We will be finding out about the role of key texts like the Bible, Koran and Torah in different religions as we explore the question, 'Is scripture central to religion?'

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Ideas for supporting learning at home:





PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- You can have a go at coding in Scratch by heading to scratch.mit.edu or downloading the Scratch app. There are loads and loads of tutorials, ideas and examples of other people's work available on the Scratch site.

Science

- Sort things in the home into solids, liquids and gases. Some are easy (bricks are definitely solid) but some, like sugar or sand, will need a bit more thought. Why are these solids? If you can find something you can't sort, bring it into class!
- There are resources to support our science topic available on BBC Bitesize at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgwc96f

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to listen to your child as often as possible.
- Spelling homework goes out every Thursday, so please help your child to learn these. You can find more advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf
- We started the term by focusing on core sentence construction - so whenever your child writes at home, help them to check that every sentence includes a subject, a verb, a capital letter and a full stop. We need to get these core elements right every time.

The Arts

If you're feeling keen, you could have a go at building your own volcano model at home – try some of these sites to get you started:

www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-volcano.html

sciencenotes.org/5-ways-to-make-a-volcano/

www.discoverexplorelearn.com/



Maths

As always, tables facts will be really important to us this term, so it would be brilliant if you could work on learning these at home. Focus on one table at a time and try:

- Making-up rhymes to help remember number facts ("4 x 6 is 24, bears growl and lions roar!")
- Looking for numbers in that table in the world around you - on doors, car number plates, in phone numbers or when you're out shopping.
- Writing-out tables with finger paints, chalk or water-on-tarmac, or make them from playdoh.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

Humanities

- We're learning about volcanoes, earthquakes, floods and hurricanes, so if anyone in the family has first-hand experiences of these (that aren't too scary), they would be great to share. Otherwise, see what you can find out about one of these natural disasters - the BBC Bitesize site has some great videos and animations at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f.
- If you're visiting London anytime soon, the Natural History Museum has a whole section devoted to volcanoes and earthquakes - you can find out more about visiting at www.nhm.ac.uk
- We're talking about the role of religious texts in our RE lessons, so it would be great if you could continue these conversations at home.