

Topic - Mountains and Volcanoes

<p>Essentials for Learning (E4L) Our whole school focus for this half term is Reflectiveness. The ability to reflect on our efforts is a vital skill to making meaningful progress in our learning. The children will be encouraged to continue discussing their learning and the impact of their choices with their peers as well as giving constructive feedback to each other. They will also be given the opportunity to plan, organise and prioritise their work in order to break tasks into manageable steps.</p>	
<p>English: Our writing this term will be a mixture of fiction and non fiction work. Our topic will provide us with lots of opportunities for writing with an adventurous theme as well as report and instructional writing. Reading skills will continue to be developed through our guided reading lesson.</p>	<p>Mathematics: The children will be working in small groups to develop their calculating and problem solving skills. We will be working through problems using money, time, distance and weight, as well as looking at shapes and their properties. We will continue to make times tables an important skill, with competitions! Random, as well as in order.</p>
<p>History, Geography and Citizenship: Looking at mountains and volcanoes will provide us with some fantastic opportunities to look at our local landscape and further afield. We will be exploring how and why volcanoes erupt, and how and why people use and change our mountain environments.</p>	<p>Science: Science this term will start with a focus on 'chemistry' and how substances can be mixed and separated, how new substances are formed and why we bother to separate and change things in the first place. The children will be working through a series of investigations to find out.</p>
<p>PE: MSR coaching will focus on hockey this half term, mostly indoors. Swimming lessons will take place every Friday morning.</p>	<p>ICT: We will be working on how to organise our work and keep ourselves safe online. There will also be the opportunity to choose when to use ICT to support other areas of the curriculum.</p>
<p>RE/PSHE: We will be looking at the SEAL unit 'Going for goals' taught by Mrs Ashley.</p>	<p>Design Technology & Art and Design: We will be looking at landscape drawing and painting. We will focus on detail and perspective to help us paint a volcanic landscape.</p>
<p>P4C: We will be using P4C to develop our thinking and communication skills. Being able to listen and question appropriately can significantly help across the curriculum.</p>	<p>Music, Dance & Drama: We will be using our drama skills to help us understand different peoples perspectives, role playing and acting out scenes where there are conflicts of interest.</p>
<p>Visits & Visitors: TBA - walk up Tholt-y-Will glen to look at how the area has changed over time and how the area is used by different people. Advanced notice: 20/3/17, 1:00-2:30 trip to Manx Museum for the geology workshop.</p>	<p>Significant Dates and Events: Mr Kirk's Class Assembly - Wednesday, 15th February at 3.15pm in the hall Break up for Half Term - Friday, 17th February Children back to school - Monday, 27th February</p>

How can I help my child at home this half term?

English	Please try to make sure that your child has completed their home reading for Guided Reading lessons. They are asked to read a relatively small amount at home each week. They should also be actively encouraged to read for enjoyment. Encourage your child to practice using joined up writing.
Maths	Please help your child to learn their times tables and related division facts at home. For division facts, start with tables your child is confident with and ask them questions such as: how many 2's in 14? 14 divided by 2? 14 shared by 2? If their tables are secure, this is a great next step that brings it all together. (2x, 3x, 10x, 5x, 4x...)
General	Based on my pre-visit before Christmas, the children seemed interested in learning about volcanoes! The topic has been broadened to include mountains so we can explore how they are formed, changed and used, including a Manx perspective and in a wider context. Please encourage discussion about geology as a whole, as well as volcanoes and mountains. If you have been on holiday to anywhere where there is a volcano, please feel free to offer to come into class to share your experience. We will be using websites and books to research information on our topic. The following website is particularly useful: http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/mountains/volcanoes.htm

What is Essentials for Learning?

The Manx Curriculum and the curriculum at Andreas School is now based around the 6R's (Readiness, Relationships, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Remembering Skills and Reflectiveness). We feel it is incredibly important to equip our children with 'skills for life' rather than just factual knowledge. The knowledge, skills and attitudes that pupils will need, in the twenty-first century, are not the same as they were in the past and so school experiences need to evolve to reflect this.

Central to the design of the curriculum are the 6R's. These are dispositions which pupils need to develop in order to learn better. As a school we are developing the 6Rs so that we have:

- an explicit commitment, at all levels of the organisation, to the development of personal capabilities, alongside academic achievement
- a clear articulation of what learning means for all stakeholders
- an agreed definition of intelligence not as a fixed entity, but as capable of expansion
- provision which routinely supports the development of the 6Rs
- regular opportunities for pupils to exercise control over their own learning
- a common "vocabulary" used to discuss learning, prevalent throughout the setting
- opportunities for reflection and the evaluation of personal qualities, built into routines.

If you have any questions about this, please contact school and staff will be happy to talk to you about our provision.