

## Welcome to Year 6!

Welcome back! We hope the children are raring to go and are eager to learn all about the exciting topic of Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes.

Year 6 is a busy year where we not only give the children exciting learning opportunities and prepare them for the end of key stage tests (SATs), but we also prepare them for secondary school by giving them more responsibility for their own learning and actions. We would appreciate your support at home by encouraging your child to become even more independent and organised, e.g. by completing homework independently and ensuring they are ready for school every day. Our residential trip to Kingswood, at the beginning of the year, will help to promote this independence and will give the children the opportunity to challenge themselves and to enjoy themselves after tough times. If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to ring us, email us or make an appointment via the office and we are looking forward to working with you all.

Miss Brewer & Mr Hunt

Miss Brewer: [miss.brewer@greattotham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:miss.brewer@greattotham.essex.sch.uk)

Mr Hunt: [mr.hunt@greattotham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:mr.hunt@greattotham.essex.sch.uk)

## Extreme Earth

Our topic across the curriculum this term will be Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes. Through our geography work we will learn about how the Earth is structured to help the children to develop understanding of continental drift and about the formation of mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. The children will use maps, atlases and globes to locate countries and describe their physical features. They will also learn about lines of latitude and longitude and understand why we have different times zones around the world.

## Homework

We will be issuing Maths and English homework on a Monday to be handed in by the following Monday. Guided Reading will be set on a Monday and due in on the Thursday of the same week.

We would very much appreciate you continuing to read with and to your child regularly as it really does make a difference. We will also be promoting reading for pleasure throughout the year.



## Dates for your diary:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September: Guided reading starts  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Kingswood  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest festival  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October - 29<sup>th</sup> October: Half term  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November: INSET  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November: Anti Bullying week  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Last day of autumn term

### Guided Reading

Our weekly guided reading sessions are an opportunity to introduce children to a variety of engaging books and texts in a small group. Led by an adult, we develop understanding of vocabulary, deduction, inference and comprehension skills. The children will receive homework activities on a Monday, which will need to be completed by the Thursday of the same week. It must be completed as it will form part of the following week's group discussion.

### Computing

We will continue to look at e-safety throughout the term understanding the importance of keeping safe online. The children will also have the opportunity to use a program called Scratch to create their own volcano-themed game/animation.

### Life Skills

Now, more than ever, is a time to realise that children's mental well-being is vitally important. Throughout this year, we will teach the children how to manage their emotions (of which there are bound to be plenty!) as well as teaching them about building relationships with each other both on and offline. We will teach them how to respect each other by looking at prejudices and stereotypes.

### P.E.

Our timetabled P.E. sessions will be - Indoor PE on Tuesday and outdoor PE on Thursday. In dance, the children will be creating exciting volcano dances using a variety of stimuli as well as having gymnastics throughout this term. Tennis and netball will be the main outdoor activities where the children will learn, practise and consolidate their control of the ball and learn tactics for strategic play.

### English

Through our own love of reading (especially children's books) we will be aiming to further instil a love of reading in the children and showing them why reading is an essential skill to have. We will be encouraging children to browse and read the wide range of books that we have amassed in our reading corners and introducing different texts and genres to them. Continuing on from Year 5, the children will further develop their writing skills and will be given opportunities to write about their own interests.

### Maths

In Maths, we want the children to develop confidence and independence when using and applying taught concepts. Emphasis will be placed on securing written methods for the four operations so that the children can apply their mathematical skills in real life contexts. During the year, the children will also be asked to reason and justify their answers - watch out children it's not just about what you know but how you can explain it too!

### R.E

The focus this term will be on Buddhism and Christianity. In the first term they will be learning about the Buddha's early life, the Middle Way and enlightenment. Then after half term, we will look at different denominations and associated practices of Christianity.

### DT

The children will investigate how gears and pulleys work and use these mechanisms to make a model 'Lava-sampler'. Let's hope they can make it out of the volcanoes!

### Music

This term, the children will have plenty of opportunities to sing a variety of songs after missing out on singing last year. In class we will be planning, composing and performing music to represent a volcano's eruption.

### Science

In Science, the children will be investigating how living things on Earth have changed, understanding how fossils are used to tell us about the past and how animals have adapted to suit their environment. Later on in the term, we will explore evolution and inheritance using Mr Men characteristics.