



Year Four News

Mayhill Junior School, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1NB

April 2024

Are all volcanoes the same?



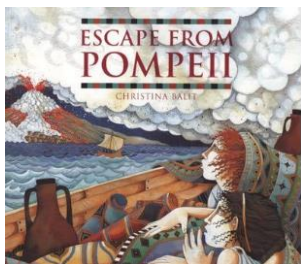
This term Year 4's learning is intertwined to answer the 'Enquiry Question' above. In this half term, the children explore natural disasters of avalanches and volcanoes and learn about the effects they have on the landscape.

This links to our English learning journey '*Escape from Pompeii*' and our DT project. In **Geography**, children will locate volcanic areas on maps using previously learnt skills and identify key features of volcanic regions. This will follow onto the children researching the impacts of volcanic eruptions on civilisations, with the aim of them being able to assess which measures are most suitable to protect themselves from these natural disasters. They will use group work to decide where most suitable place to avoid injury is within Mayhill! Whilst in **History**, the children will look at the impact of the eruption in Pompeii during a half day immersive history morning. Further links are found in **DT** where the children will design and test an escape pod to help them survive a volcanic eruption using a pulley system. Plus, later in the term, we also have a volcano workshop joining us digitally to support the children's learning further.

Mayhill Habit

Each half term has a different Mayhill Habit which the children will enquire into, develop a deeper understanding of and be able to explain how they are able to apply this habit into their own learning and life. This half-term's habit of focus is **COMMUNICATION**.

English



We will begin the half term by reading '*Escape from Pompeii*' by Christina Balit, where we will explore the use of conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions as well as paragraphing within our writing. The children will be challenged to write a news report detailing the events around the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Our second learning journey is '*The Dam*' by David Almond, the children will be creating a poem or song in reflection on this story, discussing emotions and focusing on figurative language.

Maths

Before half term, we were becoming fabulous fraction fiends! We will continue this learning before moving into the concept of decimals. This is the first-time children have covered decimals, but it builds directly on

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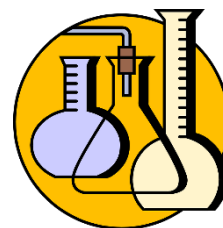
content covered within previous fraction units. This unit introduces children to writing fractional amounts in decimal notation and, in doing so, introduces the decimal point and the tenth and hundredth columns. As key learning points, tenths and hundredths are covered in detail; dividing by 10 and 100 to result in answers containing decimal numbers is also a major focus. In the next unit, children will explore decimals in greater depth, and learn about their relationship with fractions.



Please can you support your child by ensuring they log on to Times Tables Rock Stars for regular times tables practice. **This will be checked weekly by teachers and children will be rewarded house points for time spent on this.** After half-term, children will be taking part in the Year 4 times tables test – we ask that there are continuing to practice their times tables ready for this. TTRS is a great way to do this! More [information for parents, can be found here.](#)

Science

Year 4 will build on their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases from year 3 by looking at mixtures and how to separate them this term. We will be learning key scientific terminology of 'substance', 'mixture', 'solution' and dissolve. As teachers we really enjoy this topic, and we hope the children do too as there are copious opportunities for experiments, investigations and what if questions that the children can lead with.



PE/Games

Children have two PE sessions each week, with each session lasting an hour – including changing time. It is really important that children have their kit in school on these days. We try to go out whatever the weather so please ensure your child has a waterproof coat for PE days.

- **Tuesday** – Ball Skills
- **Wednesday** – Tennis



Homework Each week your child will have Reading, Times Tables (TTRS) and Spellings to complete at home. We have seen a drop in the amount of reading the children are completing at home, please ensure that they are reading at least 4 times a week. Alongside these tasks, each Wednesday a Maths or English activity will be set which is due in the following Monday.

We are all very much looking forward to an exciting half-term. If you have any questions or comments about your child's learning, do send a note in or come speak to us at the end of the school day, on the playground.

Kind regards,
The Year Four team,
Miss Scholes, Mrs Lavers, Miss Collis

Dates for the diary:

- 6th May** – Bank Holiday
- 17th May** – Volcano workshop
- 24th May** – Red White and Blue Day
- 27th May – 31st May** Half-term
- 3th June** – Inset Day
- 11th June** – Sports Day
- 17th June** – Class Photos
- 16th July** – School Reports sent home
- 23rd July** – End of School Year finish 1pm