

# YEAR 4 CURRICULUM INFORMATION



## English

The children will begin the term by writing an **explanation book** on Natural Disasters. During this time, the children will draw on their geographical knowledge to write a non-fiction (information) text which *informs* the reader about a natural disaster, for e.g. a volcano. They will also learn which features need to be included in this text type. These are: **title**, **general statement** (what the explanation is about), **key points**, **paragraphs** and a **summary paragraph** to organise this information text.

### Continuing with our FANTASTIC writing approach:

1. The children will write a **narrative** using the **FANTASTIC Writing Approach**. The stimulus we will use is a picture book called, 'The Flood' which is by *Alvaro F. Villa*.



### Writing Skills:

**Grammar** is embedded within our lessons and will cover:

- **Metaphors** (saying one thing is another) e.g. *The river is a runner tumbling over the riverbed* OR *the candy floss clouds floated gracefully...*
- **Emotive language** (evoking a feeling in the reader) e.g. *Her heart sunk, tears flooded her eyes and her shoulders slumped, knowing she would never see Jas again.*
- **Pathetic fallacy** (is giving human feelings to a non-human objects, often to show mood) e.g. *The already dark clouds rained hailstones on the crowd below and sent everybody under the shelter, as if to warn them that danger was on the way.*
- **Fronted adverbials** (saying where, when, why or how something happens. E.g. *Near the road,... Standing silently,... Sadly, ...*

### Spelling:

We encourage children to become as familiar as possible with their spelling words which are listed in the link below: <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=3244&type=pdf> Please practise these as often as possible. Practise makes perfect. Also, the more your child reads, the better the writer he /she will be.

## Maths

Children will continue to learn their **times tables** up to **12 x 12** and the related division facts. Please encourage your child to use the Timestable Rockstars website to develop their timetable fluency!

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

Knowing their timetables, means that they will be able to quickly answer questions such as:

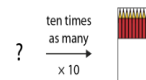
$$\begin{array}{lll} \Delta \times 5 = 35 & 8 \times \Delta = 64 & 42 = \Delta \times 7 \\ 64 \div \Delta = 8 & \Delta \div 12 = 12 & \Delta \div 11 = 3 \end{array}$$

This is because multiplication is the **inverse** (opposite or undoing) of division, so they must understand this link.

### Calculation: multiplying and dividing by 10 or 100

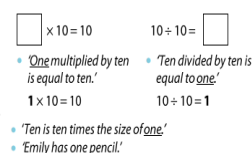
We will be applying our place-value knowledge to develop strategies to  $\times$  and  $\div$  by 10 and 100.

Multiplicand = ?; multiplier = 10; product = 10:  
'Jamie has ten pencils; he has ten times as many pencils as Emily. How many pencils does Emily have?'



### Scaling number facts by 100

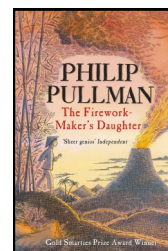
To understand how a known multiplicative fact, such as  $3 \times 5 = 15$  relates to a scaled calculation, such as  $300 \times 5 = 1,500$ .



An **excellent website** for math support and definitions is: <https://www.mathsisfun.com/>



Our **whole class** reader this 1/2 term is:



Our topic this half term is: *Natural Disasters!*

### Topic Overview

This term, we will develop our knowledge about the *formation and impact that mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes* have on landscapes and people. We will look at pieces of music inspired by natural disasters and *compose and perform music* around this. In science, we will learn about *states of matter and develop our understanding of the water cycle*. In R.E, we will find out *why different religions have festivals* and what these are. And, in PSHE our big question is: **Is the internet our friend or foe? How is our data used?** During which, we will investigate fake news, online safety etc.

### Some brilliant books to read:

- **The Firework Makers' Daughter** by Philp Pullman
- *Extreme weather* by National Geographic for children.
- *Earthshattering Events!: The Science Behind Natural Disasters* by Robin Jacobs
- *Volcanoes* by National Geographic kids.

## How can I develop my understanding of this topic further?

- ◆ **Invention Key:** Design and your own volcano! Can you make it explode? Could you label the key parts of it?
- ◆ **Research and create** an information text all about Earthquakes, include diagrams and facts.
- ◆ **Create** your own artwork inspired by Hokusai's 'The Great Wave'.