Learning Experience

To inspire the children at the start of this Learning Experience, they will have a day focused around tornadoes and earthquakes. They will begin to understand why these natural disasters occur and develop their shading skills, as they create a piece of tornado artwork. Working in teams, they will take part in a fun earthquake challenge before researching some of the biggest earthquakes in history.

Geography

In Geography, the children will be looking at different natural disasters including volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. To start the learning experience, they will learn about the different sections of the Earth and tectonic plate boundaries. Following on from this, they will begin to understand how different types of natural disasters occur and explore some of the most devastating disasters that have ever happened. To finish the half term, they will discuss and begin to understand global warming.

History

In this subject, children will immerse themselves in the story of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and its devastation of Pompeii. They will investigate what life was like before the city was destroyed; looking at Roman homes and buildings, with a particular focus on the role of The Forum. Through this, they will develop their understanding of how historians learn about the past and the significance of the artefacts which have been found at this site. They will study when Pompeii happened in relation to other historical events and place it on a timeline thinking about chronology.

Science

In Science, the children will be looking at electrical circuits and investigating how the voltage of cells effect the brightness of a lamp or volume of a buzzer. They will explore symbols and use these to draw and represent circuits before carrying out an investigation, which will allow them to develop their scientific enquiry skills. Linked to this, the children will be creating a mini renewable energy system.

English

English this term will link to our history work on Pompeii. The children will develop a clear understanding of the different sections of the story of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius through both reading and oracy. They will then use their knowledge to open the story with vivid scene-setting before exploring how to build tension in the build-up and show the drama and devastation of the eruption in the climax, and then completing their story with a description of the aftermath. They will explore the techniques that writers use to do this through their reading of engaging texts.

Maths

The children will do lots of work with fractions this half term. Initially, they will consolidate their understanding of equivalent fractions then reduce fractions to their simplest form. Following this, they will develop their ability to order and compare fractions with different denominators. As they become more confident, they will begin to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. In addition, they will also be able to find fractions of an amount. Throughout their learning, the children will apply strategies taught to problem solve and reason, ensuring they make good use of mathematical vocabulary. Towards the end of the half term, the focus in this subject will switch to measurement and being able to convert between metric units of measurement.

Earth Shattering!

Independence and Challenge

The children will work independently to plan and develop their own renewable energy system.

Rationale:
The children will learn and write about the Story of Pompeii. Through this, they will develop a good understanding of the history of this Roman city and what life was like before the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The children will explore the Earth's structure and plate tectonics in order to understand where and why volcanoes and other natural disasters can occur. They will learn about some of the most famous natural disasters and the devastation they have caused.

Start Date: 2nd November 2026

End Date: 18th December 2026

Hook: On Monday 2nd November 2026, the children will be immersed in learning about tornadoes and earthquakes. They will take part in a range of activities including producing a piece of tornado art; making tornadoes in a jar; completing an earthquake team challenge and researching some of the world's biggest earthquakes.

Outcome:
The children will design and build their own renewable energy system, using their knowledge and understanding of electrical circuits. They will present their projects to the rest of the class and photos of these will be added to the website.

Computing:
The children will explore the programme Scratch, where they will create a quiz game based on natural disasters.
They will also discuss how Internet services are used for different purposes.
Online Safety will remain an area of focus.

Take home task:
Choose from one, or even more, of the following. Alternatively, choose something of your own – get creative!

- Produce a comic strip for the story of Pompeii
- Create some art work based around natural disasters
- Produce a PPT about famous volcanoes
- Research a well-known natural disaster
- Create a model of Mount Vesuvius

To reflect our focus on **oracy**, each child will be asked to present their work to the rest of the class (or a small group) and so we would be grateful if the rehearsal of this could be supported at home.
Hand in date: Friday 11th December 2026

How you can support your child at home:

- Find out about natural disasters and their causes.
- Learn tables facts up to 12 x 12 and associated division facts – quick recall is essential.
- Ensure that your child reads at least 5 times a week. Please could you ensure this is recorded in their reading record and signed.
- Support them with their weekly spelling task and ensure they understand the meaning of all the words and are applying the taught rule.
- Support children in completing their maths homework, encouraging independence.