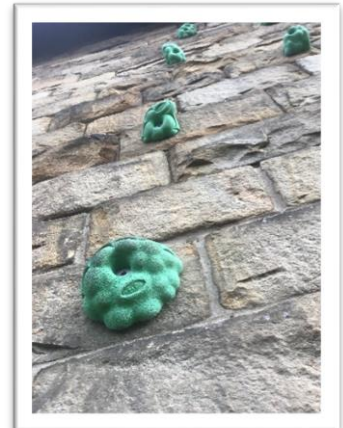


Aloe Vera newsletter

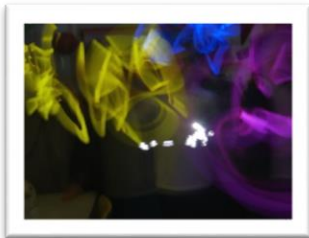
Dear parents and carers of Aloe Vera class,

I hope you've had a lovely Easter break and you are all feeling well rested for the busy term ahead!

I really enjoyed getting to know the children last term and by the time we broke up for Easter, we had really settled in and were doing some excellent work! I can't wait to see what we work we produce in our final term together.



Urban Pioneers topic



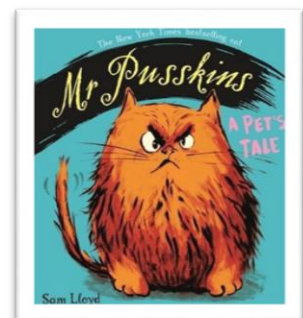
Last term we had a great time learning about our local area, cities and light. Due to this topic focusing heavily on art and design, we have created art in lots of different ways, including lots of photography! I think one of our favourite afternoons was the one where we learnt about the difference between light sources and reflectors and then got to create our light graffiti using glow sticks!



We are going to be continuing on this topic for a couple of weeks after Easter, because we didn't get much opportunity to write about cities because of a certain fluffy friend...

Mr Pusskins

Before Easter all of our English lessons were based around a certain chubby, grumpy character called Mr Pusskins. We all absolutely loved reading Mr Pusskins together and created some brilliant writing inspired by him including: wanted posters, timetables, diary entries, postcards, letters and more! I think we will all feel a little sad to leave Mr Pusskins behind but the book will remain in our class library for the children to continue to enjoy.



This half term...



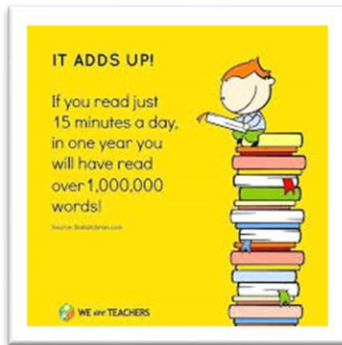
For the first two weeks we will be continuing on with Urban Pioneers then we will be switching to our new topic of "Rocks, Relics and Rumbles", where we will all be learning about the layers of the earth, different types of rocks, soils and finally fossils - a particular interest of mine as I digitally reconstructed and examined fossils as an archaeologist!

In English we will be creating poetry, producing non-chronological reports thinking carefully about presentation, and we will also be writing a dramatic diary entry, capturing the emotions of watching a volcano erupt. We will continue to develop our reading skills through our daily guided reading sessions where we have a different text each week.

In maths, we will be recapping areas identified in the Spring term that the children need to work on following ongoing assessments, and we will also continue to work hard on developing our reasoning and problem solving skills. We will also be learning about fractions and time.

Our class PE lessons will continue to be on Thursday and Friday afternoons with Mrs Purdy, and the children will need to continue coming into school dressed in their PE kit on these days. Homework will continue to be set every Friday, and will be uploaded to Google Classroom (paper copies are available from me for those who need these). We always go through the previous week's homework on Friday, so children can bring their books in on this day (answers are also uploaded to Google Classroom so you can go through these in your own time, should you wish to). Thank you so much to the children that have been consistently bringing their homework books in on Fridays.

Books for Topics: 50 Recommended Reads



Many of the children have borrowed books from our brand new reading treasure chest, which contains the 50 recommended reads for year 3 and year 4. Due to this being an ongoing school wide activity, children in mixed year groups are only being allowed to take books from their official year group to avoid spoiling next year group's book!

As mentioned in the letter that was uploaded to the school website about this challenge, the idea is that children challenge themselves to read all of these books, or as many as they can, during their time in the year group. As this challenge was only recently launched, this year it is there to provide the children with a range of high quality texts to read, providing them with an appropriate level of challenge for their age, for the remainder of the school year. I hope that they are enjoying the books, and that they are helping children to 'get back in to reading' after their time at home, when a variety of books may not have been as freely available to them.

Regular reading is so important for all of the children, and really does make a difference in their ability to read and understand across the whole curriculum. Please encourage your children to read five times a week at home, as per homework expectations.

Please continue to bring the 50 recommended books back to school regularly to ensure that your child is able to read a variety of books, and other children get chance to read them too!

Rocks, Relics and Rumbles – home learning ideas

To accompany our Rocks, Relics and Rumbles topic, there is a 'home learning ideas' sheet which contains suggested activities for the children to do at home, to enrich their learning. Please encourage your child/children to have a go at these, if they wish to. I would love to see what they do; they are welcome to bring anything they do at home in to school to share with the class! I am happy to create a display area for any work done.

TT Rockstars

Please remember that your child/children can use TT Rockstars to support their learning, while at home. I have a little display area in my class for our "Rockstar of the week" which is the child that has spent the longest on TT Rockstars that week, so don't worry about earning the most coins! It's just about getting yourself logged on and practising.

If you need me to remind you of their login details, or if there is anything else you need, please email me on the class email address below:

aloveras@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk

Best wishes,

Miss Ratcliffe