



Rowan Class Welcome

September 2023

rowanclass@longleaze.wilts.sch.uk

Welcome back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new year at Longleaze and to new learning in Rowan Class. The children have had an amazing start to the year and have all been enjoying getting to know each other and starting our new topic.

Our first topic of the year is called 'Extreme Earth' where we will be learning about the formation of the Earth, the tectonic plates and the extreme effects caused by their movement. Already, we have learnt that the Earth is not a solid rock but is made up of layers of rock and magma! I have included with this letter our knowledge organiser for this term, which includes the main learning points of our topic lessons along with QR codes for some helpful websites and games.

If you ever need to speak to me, the best time to catch me is straight after school. Alternatively, you can contact me through the class email address (rowanclass@longleaze.wilts.sch.uk) and I will get back to you.

Please be aware, we have an upcoming 'Meet the teacher evening' on Wednesday 13th September where I look forward to meeting you all.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Tye
Rowan Class Teacher

What have we been learning?



We have drawn our own self-portraits as we do at the start of every year. It was amazing to see how our art has progressed.



In mathematics, we have recapped our understanding of place value and begun to count in 100s.



In literacy, we have been exploring word classes using our new book "Secrets of the Mountain."



Rowan Class Information

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Homework

Homework will be sent home in a homework book on a Friday and should be returned the following Wednesday. Children will have one piece of English homework and one piece of mathematics homework. Alongside this, they are expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week. This should be recorded in their reading record book.

Over the term, children will also be given a choice of three pieces of creative homework linked to our class topic. They should choose one option to complete to share with the class at the end of the term.

The first homework for this term will be sent home on Friday 8th September 2023.

Healthy Snack

In Key Stage 2, children are no longer provided with a healthy snack and therefore need to bring their own. This could be a fruit or vegetable snack, cheese string, yoghurt or a healthy cereal bar. Children can have crisps and a small sweet snack (e.g. biscuits, cake) in their lunchbox, but we ask them to eat these at lunchtime rather than break time.

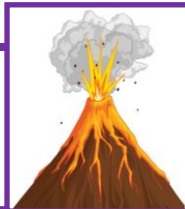
Reading books

This week, the children visited the library to choose their first reading books of the year. They should have a colour banded book, which they should read independently, and a free choice book to share at home.

The purpose of this sharing book is to encourage the children to begin reading for pleasure. Therefore, this book can be read together, or read to them if they have chosen one more challenging than their book band.

PE

This term, PE will be on Monday and Swimming on a Tuesday. On these days, your child should wear their PE kit to school.



Swimming

Rowan class will begin attending swimming lessons from the Tuesday 12th October. Please arrive at school by 8:30am so that we can reach the pool in time for our lesson. Your child will need to wear their PE kit and bring a swimming costume (no bikinis) and towel. They may wish to wear their costume beneath their uniform in the morning.

Topics

Our topics this year will be:

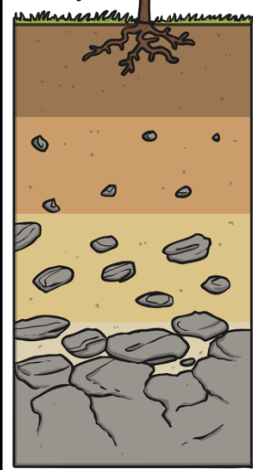
- Term 1 – Extreme Earth (Geography)
- Term 2 – Location, Location, Location (Geography)
- Term 3 – Mayan Mayhem (History)
- Term 4 – Staying Alive (Science)
- Term 5 – Lights, Camera, Action! (Science/Computing)
- Term 6 – That's Life (Science)

Key Vocabulary

geologist	A scientist who studies rocks and the Earth
mineral	A natural material that is not a living thing.
permeable	Allows liquid to pass through it.
acid	A chemical liquid that can burn
fossil	The remains of ancient plants or animals
sediment	Little pieces of rock that get layered on top
soil	A black or dark brown material where plants grow.
erosion	When something gets worn away by wind or water.
rocks	A natural, solid mineral material.
erupt	To suddenly burst out.
coast	Where the land meets the sea.

Layers of soil

The soil under our feet is made up of several different layers. The top layers are loose layers that allow plants to bury their roots and absorb water and nutrients. The lower down you go, the more rocky it becomes.



organic matter

The top layer of rotting plants and animals.

topsoil

The layer of soil where plant roots grow.

subsoil

The layer of soil made from rocks and stones that is full of nutrients.

bedrock

The layer of soil made from lots of rocks.

Crust

This is a thin outer layer made of hard rock.

Mantle

This is made of extremely hot rock that flows.

Outer Core

This is made of iron and nickel and mostly liquid with some rocky parts.

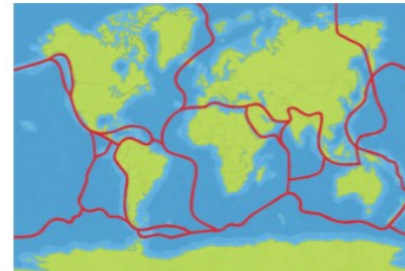
Inner Core

This is made of iron too and nickel and is the hottest layer.



Tectonic plates

The Earth's crust is not actually one solid piece. It is made up of large areas that join together called tectonic plates. These are a bit like pieces of a puzzle. Sometimes these plates can move and cause different effects depending on the movement they make.



Types of rock

There are three types of naturally occurring rocks..



Igneous

These rocks are formed when magma or lava cools. E.g. obsidian



Sedimentary

These rocks are formed when layers of sediment are pressed down upon each other under the sea over time. E.g. sandstone



Metaphoric

These rocks are formed when an igneous or sedimentary rock is changed due to heat or pressure. E.g. marble

Mountain



A mountain is formed when two plates come together (converge).



Earthquake



An earthquake is made when two plates slide past each other (transform).



Volcano



A volcano occurs when a gap appears between two plates. Magma can then escape from the Earth's mantle (diverge).



Extreme Earth