



# Park Spring Primary School

## "Achieving Together"

Dear Families

A warm welcome back everyone, especially families that are joining us for the first time. I hope you enjoy being a part of the Park Spring family. It was lovely to see all the children back really keen to start their learning journey for 2017-18.

Our motto for this year is

*2017-18 will be the year at Park Spring where pupils are doing it for themselves with a little help from their friends.*

I spoke to the children in assembly about how as a school community we need to equip them with the skills and strategies so that they have the confidence and independence to become their own teacher.

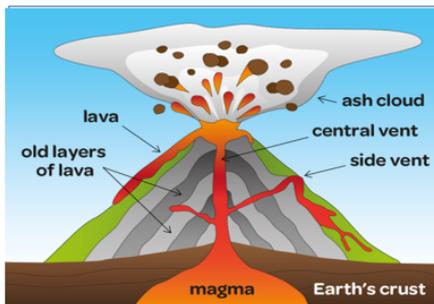
### Knowledge Organisers

A new initiative that we are introducing is 'knowledge organisers'. These are a 'go-to' documents outlining the essential knowledge that the teachers will be covering across a unit of work, this might include: dates, key personal, vocabulary and definitions.

From Y1 –Y6 we are in the process of looking at each learning challenge and identifying the essential knowledge that we feel is the children's entitlement. This will be shared with pupils and families as a knowledge organiser at the start of a new learning challenge.

Below is an image of the 'Knowledge Organiser' for the Year 3 Geography topic, 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes', which the Year 3 pupils are covering this term.

**Knowledge Organiser- What on Earth is going on? Year 3 Geography – Volcanoes and Earthquakes**



Map or diagram.

#### Key Vocabulary

1	Lava	Hot, molten rock that has erupted from a volcano.
2	Magma	Lava that has not yet erupted from the volcano. It sits in a magma chamber under the Earth's crust.
3	Ash or eruption cloud	Smoke, rock and ash that flies from the volcano when it is erupting.
4	Vent	A hole through which the lava escapes.
5	Crust	The top layer of the Earth made from rock.
6	Mantle	The biggest layer of hot rock under the Earth's crust.
7	Core	The centre of the Earth. It is split into the outer core (made of hot, liquid rock) and the inner core (boiling hot rock).
8	Tectonic Plates	The Earth's crust and top part of the mantle are split into large slabs of rock called tectonic plates.

#### Key features/landmarks

1	Mount Vesuvius in Naples, Italy	Last erupted in 1944. Biggest eruption in 79AD
2	Mount St Helen's in Washington, USA	Last erupted in 1980.
3	Mauna Loa in Hawaii, USA	Last erupted in 1984.
4	Mount Etna in Sicily, Italy	Last erupted in 2014.

#### Key facts/figures

1	A volcano is a mountain formed by the eruption of molten rock (lava) from underground.
2	There are 1,500 active volcanoes in the world (they have erupted recently and will erupt soon).
3	Volcanoes that are extinct will not erupt again. Volcanoes that are dormant have not erupted for many years but may erupt again.
4	The Earth has three main layers: the crust, the mantle and the core.
5	An earthquake happens when two of the Earth's tectonic plates suddenly slip past each other, snap, crack or make other rapid movements.
6	The eight major tectonic plates float on top of the mantle and move a few centimetres every year. The Earth used to look very different!

Knowledge organisers will replace half-termly curriculum newsletters and will be distributed at the start of a learning challenge. Please feel free to use them as a reference guide for what your child is learning, and also, as an opportunity to discuss the facts about the topic and how much they have learning.

### During the Summer

We have entered a very exciting stage in the expansion, it has been amazing watching the steel frame go up over the past few weeks. Hopefully by half term the external structure of the new part of the school will be completed.





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