Year 4 Autumn 1:
How do plate tectonics shape our planet?

What we're reading: The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman

Lila doesn't just want to be a Firework-Maker's daughter, she wants to be a Firework Maker herself. But although she's learned a lot, she still must get through the most difficult and dangerous part of her apprenticeship - and her father won't tell her what it is.

In search of this final Firework-Making secret, Lila heads off alone on a journey. It is a journey filled with dangers beyond anything she could have imagined, a journey on which she will learn so much more than the one secret she set out to find…

What we're writing:	A descriptive narrative, and an informal letter.

Humanities: Geography, Art, Modern Foreign Languages, RE, Music, RSHE

As Geographers, we will use atlases to locate continents, countries and cities, and investigate plate tectonics to discover how they influence the natural geography of the world. We will look explore volcanoes and earthquakes, and compare a volcanic region to Norfolk.

As Artists, we will explore tint, tone and shading through the work of artist Katsushika Hokusai. We will then learn how to combine these elements to give a painting depth.

In RSHE, our focus will be on building positive relationships with people in our lives. We will discuss how to manage different feelings and how to seek help or advice to manage conflict. We will also look at online safety and zones of regulation.

As Linguists, we will continue to use Language Angels to help learn French. We will learn through games and songs, as well as focussing on linguistic structures in both spoken and written forms.

Humanities Vocabulary	Definition
Continent	A large geographical region: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Antarctica.
Country	A nation that has its own government.
Plate tectonics	A scientific theory that explains how major landforms are created because of Earth's subterranean movements.
Equator	An imaginary line around Earth that divides it into two hemispheres and has 0° latitude.
Earthquake	A sudden violent shaking of the ground, typically causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action.
Volcano	A mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.

RE Enquiry: Where do Christian religious beliefs come from?

We will be exploring where Christian religious beliefs come from, and how the Bible is organised. We will consider different types of authority and how this might link with people's beliefs.

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As Mathematicians, we will be learning how to represent numbers up to 10,000. We will practice partitioning (taking a large number and splitting into smaller blocks e.g., 684 = 600 + 80 + 4) numbers. Once confident with this, we will begin finding 1, 10 , 100 and 1,000 more or less than a number. We will also learn about Roman numerals and how this system works. Finally, we will look at how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.

As Scientists, we will be learning about the different states of matter; solids, liquids and gases, and will explore how molecules are arranged in each state. We will also learn how water can exist in three different states and make links to the water cycle.

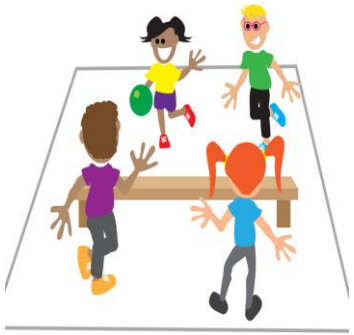
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM): Computing, Design Technology, Maths, PE, Science

As Computer Scientists, we will recap our understanding of online safety, then take a deeper look at the internet: who owns the web, what websites look like and sharing of information. We will then complete our learning by discussing whether we can always believe what we see or read on the internet.



As Engineers, we will generate ideas and work with different tools, equipment and materials to make our very own volcanoes!

As Sportspeople, we will be focussing on ball skills and invasion games. We will develop our handling, catching and throwing techniques. We will also practice attacking and defending in a range of different games and activities.



STEM Vocabulary	Definition
Numbers	Numbers are made up of digits and have a 'value'
Digits	An individual number – 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.
Place value	How much each digit is worth depending on the column it is in (see image below).
Greater than	When a number is larger than another. For example, 23 is greater than 12.
Less than	When a number is smaller than another. For example, 4 is less than 9.
Evaluate	A conclusion that should be clearly structured and explained using appropriate, subject-specific vocabulary and knowledge.
Criteria	A criterion is a standard, rule, or principle used to judge or decide something.
Solid	A state of matter that can stay on one place, can be held and always take up the same amount of space.
Liquid	A state of matter that can flow or be poured easily and can change their shape depending on the container they are in.
Gas	A state of matter that is often invisible and does not have a fixed shape, meaning they spread and change shape to fill whatever container they are in.

Optional Activities:

Whilst we don't set any formal homework at Avenue Junior School, we are passionate about reading and therefore ask that your child reads for at least 10 minutes a day. The benefits of this are wide ranging and can be felt across the curriculum. The children can take their library books home with them to read, but they must bring them in to school each day!

Maths:

We also recommend regular practise of key maths skills including multiplication, addition and subtraction. Where possible. children should practise for at least 20 minutes a week on Times Tables Rockstars. You child's class teacher should now have reshared the log in details for this. If you are unable to log in, please do speak with your child's teacher.

The Topmarks website also has lots of multiplication (and other mathematical) games https://www.topmarks.co.uk. Online/digital games aren't the only way to reinforce mathematical concepts. Flash cards, maths puzzles, quick quizzes and shop bought exercise books are all effective options.

Other areas of the curriculum:

- Find out about famous earthquakes and volcanoes around the world.
- Create your own volcano! You can use the Natural History Museum link to help you: https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-tomake-a-volcano.htm

Class Dojo:

We love to see the work children and families have been doing at home.

Please do upload pictures via Class Dojo and we will make sure that these are celebrated in class and rewarded with team points or certificates.

Likewise, if children have any notable achievements or events outside of school (swimming medals, football tournaments etc), we love to hear about these too!

ClassDojo