

Earth Works

Summer 1 is a very short half term, but we are cramming a lot of learning into it! Our topic on Roman Britain has got off to a flying start with work in our Creative Curriculum and English, and we have been exploring the wonderful world of plants in Science. Read on for an update on our learning over the last few weeks.

The beautifully illustrated book, *Escape from Pompeii*, has been the focus of our writing in our unit on historical stories. We have written descriptive settings, practised our speech punctuation and created lively retellings of the characters' desperate attempt to flee the city of Pompeii as Mount Vesuvius erupts! Here are some extracts from our exciting writing:

The children held onto each other as the ground shook like a herd of wild beast passing. They were frozen to the spot.

The not-so-gentle Mount Vesuvius erupted like one thousand fireflies swarming together.

The volcano erupted with flowing lava spilling down the side. Pompeii was going down in flames.

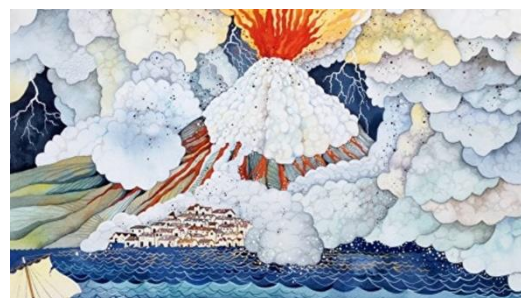
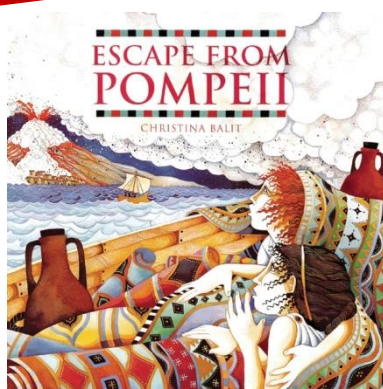
Fearsome lava splashed out of the mountain, like spray from jumping in a puddle.

There was a long terrible moment when the hot burning lava destroyed their sweet precious village.

Tears rolled down their cheeks as they looked back at the lava destroying their beloved city. Suddenly Mount Vesuvius exploded in a scream.

Pompeii was destroyed.

As they looked back, Mount Vesuvius had turned into a horror and destroyed the city. Their beloved Pompeii was devastated. The volcano had destroyed the city it was protecting. It had killed its love.



In Science, we have been investigating plants: discovering which plants are growing in the school grounds and how and why they differ in different areas; finding out about plant families; naming plant parts; exploring what plants need to grow and conducting a variety of investigations. We have been growing beans in the classroom to discover the stages of development of a plant from seed to flower. The children have enjoyed observing their beans and have been surprised by the speed of their growth - although some have grown more quickly than others...



In Art, we have been exploring sculpture. Inspired by Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles*, we designed and sculpted clay figures to create our own *Ellingham Field*. Some of the figures represented particular emotions; others were based on people we knew. Once the clay has dried and hardened, we will group our figures together to create our own installation.



Our Learning

Here are a few of the other things we have been doing recently in class:

- Calculating with money, including decimal notation.
- Learning vocabulary about places in town in French.
- Exploring life as a Roman Legionary and the building of Hadrian's Wall.

Coming Up...

- Discussion texts and a debate in English.
- Statistics in Maths. We will be interpreting data in graphs and charts, solving problems and creating our own graphs from data.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the tennis tournament in Alnwick on Friday. One of the Earthworks' teams came second in the competition and good sportsmanship was shown by all our players. Well done!

Helping at Home

As always, you can help your child's learning at home through:

- Regularly reading with them and sharing or talking about books and magazines together.
- Helping them to learn their spellings and times tables. Spellings and tables facts need repeated practise, so although we spend time on them in class, most children will need extra help at home to succeed in their weekly assessments.
- Encouraging your child to complete their homework and lending a hand if they find it tricky.
- **Homework is due in on Mondays. Each week a number of children forget to complete their homework, or to hand it in on time. This makes it difficult to get work marked and new homework given out on Wednesday. It also means that they will have to complete the work in class, during Golden Time, as homework is a school requirement. Please make sure that your child completes their work on time and brings it to school.**

All home support is greatly appreciated and pays dividends in helping to move your child's learning forward. Thank You.