



This document is designed to inform you of the learning planned for your child's next unit of inquiry. In addition we offer you some optional ideas for supporting your child at home.

Y4 Unit Overview

How We Organise Ourselves

Students will be exploring the Theme: Sharing the Planet as they inquire into the Central Idea: **'Communities can prepare for and respond to natural disasters in a variety of ways.'** We will investigate how individuals and communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters in systematic ways. Throughout this unit students will be exploring the causes of natural disasters, how people prepare for and respond to natural disasters and the impact that natural disasters have on communities locally and globally. As we find out about the response systems that are needed when natural disasters occur we will also be considering our responsibility both personally and locally in response to disasters. Throughout this unit students will learn about and become more **knowledgeable** as they explore causes and effects of natural disasters. They will become better **communicators** as they explain their new knowledge to a wider audience. Students will also gain more **empathy** as we explore how natural disasters have and continue to affect the lives of people around the world.

You may wish to support your child at home in the following ways:

Developing vocabulary:



Key vocabulary used in this unit will be: environment, natural disaster, tornado, hurricane, tsunami, volcano, typhoon, earthquake, responsibility, response, systems, impact, connection, action, community, N.G.O (non-government organisations), technology, prepared, forces

Conceptual lenses:



*This unit will be addressed through the lens of **change, responsibility and causation**. We will explore the concept of causation as we investigate the scientific causes of some natural disasters and why some disasters cause more devastation than others. Through the lens of change students will investigate how knowing about the effects of natural disasters can help people be better prepared in the future. As we explore the concept of responsibility we will look at the different levels of response to natural disasters from personal response to global response.*

Fun things to do:



Many children seem to be naturally curious about natural phenomena so spending time with your child, reading and recording information about their area of interest would be beneficial. Do you know anyone who is or has been affected by natural disasters? If so, encouraging your child to formulate interview questions would not only support their content knowledge but would also support their research and language skills. Look at a world map and identify places in the world that are often impacted by natural disasters. Talk about preventative measures you could take as a family. Do you have a plan of action? Do you need one? Watch the news and read newspapers to find out where natural disasters are occurring. Do some science experiments to show how natural disasters occur.

Look for action:



ACTION is a key element of the Primary Years Programme. We are always looking to see how children take their learning and apply it independently. This can take many forms - from a discussion about the unit of inquiry at home initiated by your child, role-play or even a request to bring a book or artifact in to school because it relates to the work we have been doing in school. Now that you know what the unit is all about please keep your eyes open for evidence of action and let us know!

Any action that you tell us about will be kept as part of your child's records.



"Success for Every Child"



Alongside the key concepts, attitudes, learner profile attributes and action elements of the Primary Years Programme there is a body of knowledge that will be taught during the course of each unit. The main learning outcomes are outlined below for your reference. The children's understanding of each objective is assessed before each planned learning experience in order for us to pitch the work according to your child's ability and needs:

ENGLISH:

In reading students will continue to develop a range of strategies to comprehend texts. They will be particularly focused on identifying main ideas within a text and summarising. We will work on our research skills as we look at the validity of information we are finding and reading for information. In writing students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences focusing mainly on report writing and explanations. We will be exploring different sources such as newspapers, videos, books and first hand sources such as people. Students will have opportunities to work on their speaking and listening skills as they will be asked to speak in front of different audiences when they present their research findings and also listen attentively to others.

MATHS

As students investigate the causes and frequency of natural disasters in maths they will continue our work on creating and interpreting graphs. Place value will come through this unit as we explore the large numbers of people that can be affected by natural disasters. Students will be reading, writing, comparing and ordering numbers to 10 000 and beyond.

SCIENCE and SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will be exploring this unit through the social studies strand 'human and natural environments'. Some outcomes we hope to address are:

- identify and describe some features of natural phenomena
- explain the causes of natural disasters
- identify issues people face when their community is affected by natural disasters
- examine the effects of specific natural disasters on communities and evaluate responses

CHINESE

This term in Chinese we will start to explore and inquire into organizing ourselves through discussions on class rules and classroom instructions and expectations. Topics including greetings and myself will be covered in some classes. Also we will have general discussions on roles and responsibilities, cooperation and connection.

Your child will learn best of all when school and home work as a team. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact us.

