

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a joyful and restful Christmas break. We're so excited to welcome the children back for another term of fun-filled learning and personal growth here at Northern House Academy. This half term, our topic is 'Rockin' Rocks!' – a thrilling theme that will take us on a creative and scientific journey through the world of geology, natural disasters and ancient landscapes.

Our English focus will be on Instructional Writing, where children will create their own Safety Guides linked to natural disasters like earthquakes and volcanoes. This will not only develop their writing and sequencing skills but also build their understanding of how to communicate clearly and with purpose. In maths we will continue to develop our understanding of number operations, alongside practical work on weight and money – including real-life problem-solving activities. Our Science lessons will be all about Rocks! Pupils will explore how rocks are formed, their properties, and their uses in everyday life.

In art lessons we will be getting creative with clay and rock painting, where children will turn natural materials into unique pieces of artwork. Inspired by the textures and colours of the Earth, this will be a perfect outlet for self-expression. In geography sessions we will delve into the powerful forces that shape our planet – earthquakes, mountains, and volcanoes. Children will explore how these phenomena occur, where in the world they happen, and how people adapt to living near them.

In computing we will explore E-Safety, learning how to stay safe online – including recognising safe websites, using secure passwords, and being respectful in digital spaces. Our PSHE theme is Keeping Safe, linking closely with our computing and English learning. We'll discuss how to stay safe at home, in the community, and online, helping children build confidence and self-awareness.

Banksy Class will have PE on Thursdays. Pupils can come to school in comfortable clothes suitable for physical activity – e.g. a t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, and trainers.

In addition on a Friday morning we will be visiting Hill End outdoor centre for the term. Please ensure that your child comes dressed for the weather including suitable footwear (Wellington boots/old trainers/hiking boots), jacket, multiple layers of clothing for the cold etc.

As always, we deeply value the partnership between home and school. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to check in on how your child is getting on. You can contact us through the school office or by email. We're looking forward to a fantastic half term full of curiosity, creativity and connection. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm wishes,

The Banksy Class Team: Mr Moar, Miss Clare, Miss Lin