Topic Plan

Year 6
Spring 1 – 'A Ground-Breaking Experience' – Physical Processes

Key Skills

- Understand the structure of the Earth and what tectonic plates are.
- Know where we can find tectonic plates using a world map and how they move.
- Find out what causes earthquakes and the effects they have.
- How mountains are formed.
- Understand how volcanoes work.
- Using scale and proportion in selfportraits.
- The stability of structures.
- Understand that light travels in a straight line.
- Describe reflections and refraction.

Key Facts

- The structure of the Earth is made up of 4 key layers: crust, mantle, outer core, inner core.
- Continents and oceans sit on tectonic plates.
- Continents were once connected but they have drifted apart over time. This is called continental drift.
- There are 3 key ways that tectonic plates move: pull apart, scape alongside and collide.
- Tectonic plates move very slowly. This movement causes friction which results in earthquakes.
- There are 4 different types of mountains: fold, dome, fault-back and volcanic.

Key Vocabulary

Tectonic plates – A large slab of rock that floats on the Earth's mantle.

Magma – Molten rock that rises through the Earth's crust and creates lava.

Crust – The cold, rocky outer layer that makes up the Earth's surface. **Mantle** – Churning liquid rock under the Earth's crust.

Outer core – Very hot layer of the Earth that is mostly made up of liquid iron.

Inner core – Hot, dense ball of mostly iron that sits in the middle of the Earth.

Epicentre- The point directly above the focus of the earthquake on the Earth's surface.

Magnitude scale – The scale that measures the strength of an Earthquake.

Key Figures/Places

Frida Kahlo - painter

Isaac Newton – scientist

Chile earthquake 2010



Reading and Writing Links

Our class novel this term is Skellig written by David Almond.

Writing

- Non-chronological Report
- Narratives

