

Newsletter

Term 3 Week 2/6 SPRING TERM 2019



The ARCHAEOAN ERA...

Dear Parents,

What a great start back. We have loved hearing all the excited news of Christmas, presents, family gatherings and holidays.

This past week we have introduced the timeline to the children. We have a fabric timeline which is measured out in strips of different colours, one to represent each era since time began. This gives the children a visual representation rather than baffling them with enormous numbers. They can see that man has only been on the planet for a relatively short period of time by comparing it to the other eras.

The first era is the Archaean or Azoic. To bring the ideas of this to life for early years we will be presenting activities and language to do with opposites: hot and cold and dark and light. We will have a blackout den with torches. We will light a candle and see how it changes as it burns. We will discuss safety around heat and fire at home.

We will erupt our model volcano everyday this week using vinegar and bi-carb to create magma and lava. We will watch real volcanic eruptions on the computer. We will talk about how we need air to breathe and why wouldn't be able to live on the planet during this time.



ADULT WORDS

After all the fun of the holidays we have noticed a few adult words being bandied about during outdoor play this week. In our experience it is best not to make too much of it if you hear a child using inappropriate words as it can quickly lead to a game if they get a big reaction. At nursery we deal with this by explaining that we don't use such words and ignoring them in the hope that the child will become bored and forget them.

THE BEGINNING OF TIME ...

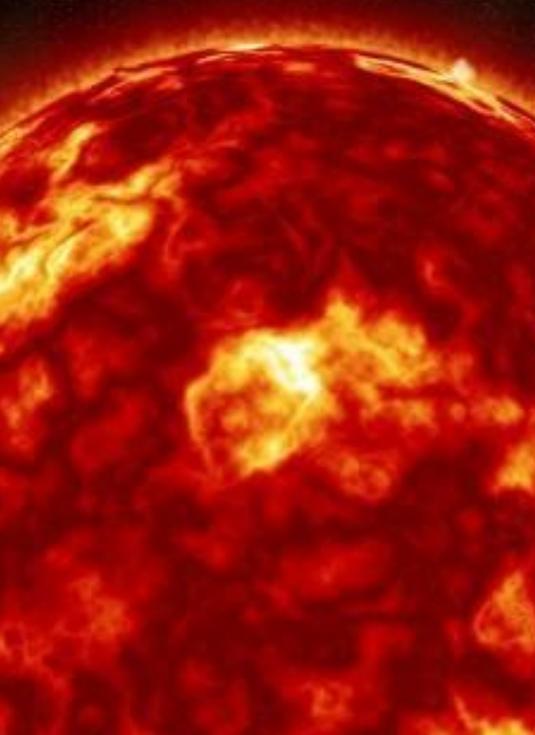
The Great Montessori Lesson

ARCHAEOAN ERA

3800 – 2500 million years ago

While the Earth now had a solid crust it was still very active volcanically. There was no oxygen in the atmosphere, so it was unbreathable, and it was too hot for liquid water.

Over millions of years the Earth gradually cooled down, and eventually became cool enough to rain; filling the lowlands and forming the seas. But the seas were still hot. The sky wasn't blue. The air was unbreathable – mostly methane, nitrogen and carbon dioxide with very little oxygen. Then the organisms called blue-green appeared. They were unique, as a byproduct of their metabolism was oxygen gas. They grew so well that they changed the atmosphere of the Earth. The oxygen made it clear and breathable and provided an ozone layer that screened out the harmful UV rays from the Sun.



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