







Rocks, Soils and Fossils – Knowledge Organiser Year 3 Spring 1					
<b>Vocabulary</b>		Granite		Igneous	<b>How are rocks formed?</b>  Rocks are classified by the process in which they are formed.  <b>Igneous Rocks</b> are formed from magma or lava once it has cooled.  <b>Sedimentary Rocks</b> are rocks formed from layers of sediment which are then crushed under the pressure of yet more layers.  <b>Metamorphic Rocks</b> are rocks formed when one type of rock is changed into another type by pressure and heat.
geologist	A scientist who studies the surface of the Earth, especially rocks.	Limestone		Sedimentary	
molten	Melted; in liquid form.	Chalk		Sedimentary	
magma	Molten rock stored below the Earth's surface.	Sandstone		Sedimentary	
lava	Molten rock once it has reached the Earth's surface.	Slate		Metamorphic	
minerals	Metals or other substances found in nature, especially in rocks.	Marble		Metamorphic	
erosion	The gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil by rivers, the sea, or the weather.				
sediment	Small solid 'bits' of material, especially soil and pieces of rock, that have been carried along by water, ice or wind and then left (deposited) somewhere.				
fossils	The remains or imprints of animals or plants that died millions of years ago and been preserved in rock.				
micro-organism or microbe	A tiny living thing which you can only see if you use a microscope.				
saturated	Soaked; containing the maximum amount of water possible.	permeable	A property of a material that allows water to pass through.		
organic	Substances produced by or found in living things.	impermeable	A property of a material that prevents water from passing through.		
<b>What is soil?</b>					
Soil is made from tiny particles of rocks, organic material (rotting plants and animals), air and water. Living organisms, including worms and micro-organisms, live in the soil and help to keep it healthy.					
<b>Clay soil</b> is usually sticky and has few air gaps, which means water cannot drain through this soil easily.					
<b>Chalky soil</b> is usually light-coloured, stony and allows water to drain quickly.					
<b>Sandy soil</b> is usually pale-coloured with large, grainy particles which means water drains through easily.					