







Rocks, Soils and Fossils – Knowledge Organiser Year 3 Spring 1										
Vocabulary		Granite		Igneous	How are rocks formed?					
geologist	A scientist who studies the surface of the Earth, especially rocks.				Rocks are classified by the process in which they are formed.					
molten	Melted; in liquid form.				Limestone		Sedimentary	Igneous Rocks are formed from magma or lava once it has cooled.		
magma	Molten rock stored below the Earth’s surface.							Sedimentary Rocks are rocks formed from layers of sediment which are then crushed under the pressure of yet more layers.		
lava	Molten rock once it has reached the Earth’s surface.				Chalk		Sedimentary	Metamorphic Rocks are rocks formed when one type of rock is changed into another type by pressure and heat.		
minerals	Metals or other substances found in nature, especially in rocks.							What is soil?		
erosion	The gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil by rivers, the sea, or the weather.				Sandstone		Sedimentary	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.		
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.							Slate		Metamorphic
fossils	The remains or imprints of animals or plants that died millions of years ago and been preserved in rock.	Marble		Metamorphic	Chalky soil is usually light-coloured, stony and allows water to drain quickly.					
micro-organism or microbe	A tiny living thing which you can only see if you use a microscope.				Sandy soil is usually pale-coloured with large, grainy particles which means water drains through easily.					
saturated	Soaked; containing the maximum amount of water possible.									
organic	Substances produced by or found in living things.									
		permeable	A property of a material that allows water to pass through.							
		impermeable	A property of a material that prevents water from passing through.							