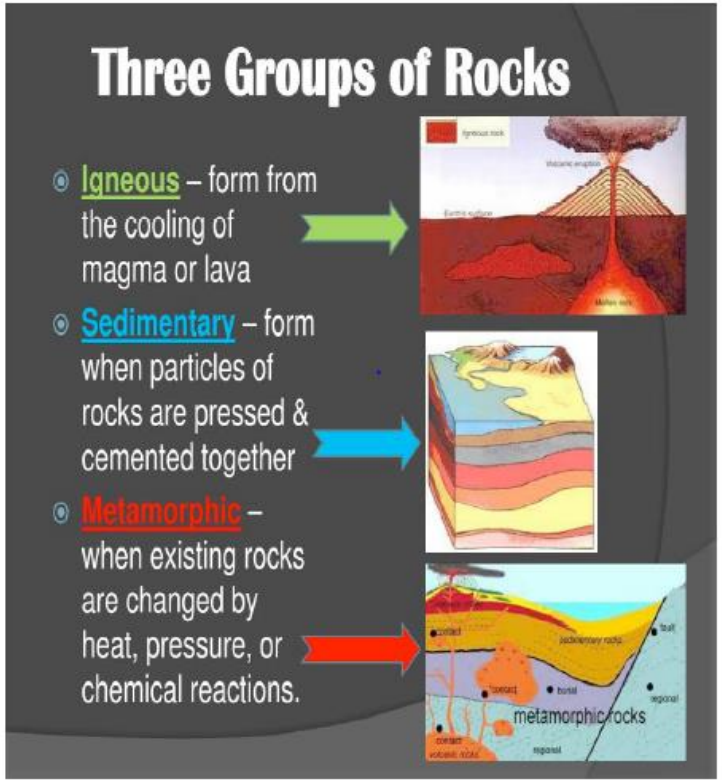
St. Paul's C of E VA Primary and Nursery School
Knowledge Organisers

Year Group: Year 3

Topic: Rocks and Soils

Key Vocabulary	
Physics	The study of the processes that shape our world and how we use it.
igneous	Rocks that were once so hot that they were liquid.
sedimentary	Rocks that are formed from sediments left by water, ice, or wind.
metamorphic	Rocks that have had their original structure changed by pressure or heat.
magma	Molten rock that is formed in very hot conditions inside the earth.
sediment	Solid material that settles at the bottom of a liquid.
compressed	Air or gas squeezed into a small space or container and is therefore at a higher pressure than normal.
dense	Very heavy.
permeable	Allows water or gas to pass through or soak into it.
decay	Gradually destroyed by a natural process.
fossil	The hard remains of a prehistoric animal or plant that are found inside a rock.
palaeontologist	A person who studies fossils.



Common phrases about rocks

Phrase	Definition
solid as a rock	very strong and stable
on the rocks	something which is broken and in ruins
rock the boat	to cause a problem
rock bottom	at such a low level that it can't go any lower



Mary Anning- key facts

- Mary Anning is famous for finding many important fossils.
- She was born in 1799 in Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Types of soil

