Annunciation Catholic Junior School: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS
YEAR 4 Earthquakes

What? (Key Vocabulary)

Earthquake • Earth's plates • Plate tectonics • Epicentre • Vibration • Seismic waves

Spelling	Definition
Core	The core is at the centre of the Earth. There is a solid inner core and outer liquid core of molten metal.
Crust	The surface layer covering our planet.
Earthquake	A violent movement of parts of the Earth's surface.
Tectonic plates	The earth's crust is made up of large areas called tectonic plates that join together.
Seismic waves	An elastic wave in the earth produced by an earthquake or other means
Mantle	Under the crust is the mantle forming about half of the earth

Earthquakes:

-Earthquakes are caused when the earth's tectonic plates suddenly move.

-Most earthquakes occur near the tectonic plate boundaries.

-Earthquakes can cause lots of damage to roads, buildings and property.

-The power of an earthquake is measured using the Richter Scale

What? (Key knowledge)

Earthquakes	Scientists use the different speeds of seismic waves to locate the epicentre (the point on the surface directly above where the earthquake originated) of earthquakes.
Brief history of earthquakes	The most powerful earthquake ever recorded on Earth was in Valdivia, Chile. Occurring in 1960, it had a magnitude of 9.5.

What causes an earthquake?

An earthquake is the shaking and vibration of the Earth's crust due to movement of the Earth's plates (plate tectonics). Earthquakes can happen along any type of plate boundary. Earthquakes occur when tension is released from inside the crust. Plates do not always move smoothly alongside each other and sometimes get stuck. When this happens, pressure builds up. When this pressure is eventually released, an earthquake tends to occur.

Diagrams and Symbols

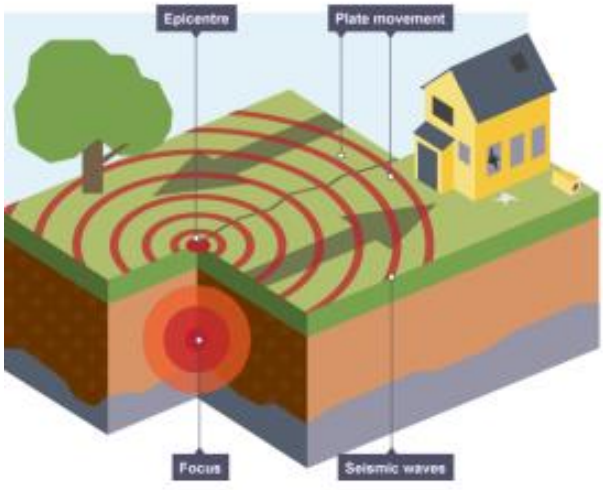

Diagram of the layers of the earth