



Welcome back! We hope you've all had a wonderful break and are looking forward to the start of another busy term on the lead up to Christmas! We are all glad to be back and are looking forward to an exciting term ahead.

We hope that the children will see the year as one in which to consolidate learning from previous years, move forward, improve their work to the best of their ability and to take pride in everything they do. We will be focussing on settling the children, building relationships, and ensuring classes are happy safe places where the children will thrive. As well as hard work and effort, we are sure we will have a year that will be full of fun together and we are very much looking forward to enjoying being part of the Priestley family. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. We will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way. So far things have run smoothly. The children are doing a wonderful job!

Over this term here are a few things to tickle your taste buds!

A poison, a mixture, an aromatic brew, a vapour, a liquid or sticky goo. Welcome to the amazing magical world of potions and their properties...Now scientists, beware! There are some powerful and deadly potions out there - dangerous, unpredictable or plain tragic. Use what you know about materials and their properties to create incredible potions in Professor Hazard's Potions class. Feeling sleepy? Hmmm – that orange juice did taste a little strange...

We are really looking forward to some fantastic learning opportunities in our topic 'Potions' and we will be using the wiztastic Harry Potter to inspire us.

This term is going to be particularly magical for Year 3 and 4 because our learning will be inspired by Harry Potter. We will be taking a trip to Harry Potter Studios which we are all very excited to have the opportunity to see the real sets and props from the blockbuster films. This trip will support our learning throughout the term by giving us some magical inspiration! The trip will take place on Thursday 17th November. Like all our visits out of school we need parent volunteers to support the trip. If you are available to help, please complete the slip on the trip letter.

Curriculum Focus –Our topic is 'Potions.'

We can't wait to get started! In this topic pupils will find out about how chemistry has changed our lives, and how we use it every day. They will learn about famous chemists who experimented with potions and poisons, creating ways of keeping safe, and ways of making new things. They will become chemists themselves, trying to separate mixtures of different substances and carrying out a range of experiments with familiar kitchen chemicals. They will find out about how humans have poisoned our planet, with pollution, pesticides and radiation, and how we are learning to change our ways and clean up after ourselves! They will have a go at making some delicious fruit potions in the form of unusual smoothies and create their own labels and logos for their magical recipe.

English Focus – We will be using the book 'Harry Potter the Philosopher's Stone' by J.K Rowling

English: In English, we will be using Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and several genres of writing will be explored. In Year 3 and 4, we will continue to develop the children's skills of planning, drafting and reviewing what they have written. The children will learn to identify the audience for and purpose of their writing. They will also be learning to use grammar appropriately. In their non-fiction writing, the children will use headings, bullet points and other ways to organise their writing. They will be expected to describe settings, characters and to use dialogue within their stories. **We will be watching parts of the first Harry Potter film as part of our learning this term, it is rated PG. Please let us know if you have any objections to your child watching this film and they will not take part.**

We will build on our existing reading skills with a focus on consolidating our decoding, prediction and retrieval skills as we read 'Harry Potter the Philosopher's Stone' before developing our prediction and inference skills through imagery, drama and short

texts linked to our learning in History. We will be summarising key points, investigating language and vocabulary. We will be continuing to develop our ability to retrieve information from a text to answer questions, when reading for meaning and understanding.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: This term there will be a focus on developing the clarity and fluidity of our sentences in writing via spelling (using our topic spellings in particular), punctuation and language structures. We will focus on ensuring our sentences are correctly punctuated consistently. We shall also build our knowledge through learning new sentence structures as well as the use of different punctuation. Lastly, there will be a renewed focus on handwriting ensuring it is of the highest standard in all aspects of the learning.

Maths Focus – we will be following the National Curriculum supported by the White Rose Maths Scheme. We will continue to develop our understanding of place value and column addition and subtraction. Further, our focus seeks to revise known multiplications while increasing our knowledge of the 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9-times table: this will be underpinned by a growing understanding of division facts and the relationship between the two this will assist the year group in becoming better mathematicians.

Drinks

Just a reminder that **only** still water should be sent into school in plastic bottles please. Juice, sparkling or flavoured water should not be sent in. Your support is appreciated. Research shows that drinking water throughout the day helps children to work at their optimum level.

Spikey Values



We will also be working on our Spikey Values and putting a great emphasis on the development all our Spikey skills so all our children can become 'Super Spikey Learners.' We will be explaining that treating everyone with respect, thinking things through, giving everything a go, being on time and in school every day, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is incredibly important for the children to achieve their best.

P.E

Participation in P.E is hugely important for the development of health, fitness, and wider skills for learning such as resilience and collaboration. P.E days are:

- ✓ **Sandpiper – Tuesday & Thursday**
- ✓ **Harlequin – Tuesday & Thursday**
- ✓ **Eider – Tuesday & Friday**

P.E kits will be brought into school on P.E days left in school then taken home at the end of the week. Please check your child's P.E. kit that all clothing and shoes still fit. Following guidelines all P.E sessions are being practiced outside so a dark pair of jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt can also be included for comfort. **Please label all uniform and P.E kits with your child's name. This way we can ensure that missing uniform finds its way back to the correct owner.**

Healthy Break Time Snacks

Children in Year 3 and 4 are not provided with fresh fruit and vegetables through the National Fruit Scheme. So please send in a healthy snack for them to enjoy at break time to keep up their energy levels!

Unlocking the learning at home....

Help your child prepare for their learning:

Reading – Children should be reading at home at least four times a week. Please listen to your child read and regularly discuss their reading with them. Regular reading aloud is vital to children's vocabulary and fluency development. Please log onto Reading Planet - <https://my.risingstars-uk.com>

Spellings – Spellings will be posted on the Spikey Takeaway Menu. Spellings will focus specifically on the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception words. Try the Spooky Spellings game to support the learning.
<https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/spookySpellings/index.html>

Times Tables - Children must know **ALL** their tables by the end of Year 4 so any chance to recite them with your child is great. We will be working on all tables across Year 3 & 4. Not just 3x4 but 4x3 and $12 \div 3 = 4$ and $12 \div 4 = 3$. We will be practising these using songs and practical activities.

The children in Year 4 will be participating in the Government's Multiplication Screening Check this during the summer term 23. The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents-text-version--2>

Times Table Rockstars - is the perfect way to help prepare the children for the Multiplication Screening Check. Please log on to Times Tables Rockstar - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

Spikey Takeaway Menu – will include a selection of work across different subject areas to be completed over a 2-week period.

Finally, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful term, for your child, for you and for our whole school community. Any questions please don't hesitate to contact us via ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk

Mrs Marsh-Ballard, Miss Ward and Miss Waterfield



Topic Overview

Term 2 - Year 3 and 4



English	<i>During this term we will be reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.</i>
Maths	<i>In maths we will be following National Curriculum guidelines supported by White Rose.</i>
History	<i>In history we will use a range of historical resources to find out why potions were used in the past for medicinal and magical reasons. We will also be finding out about Alexander Fleming.</i>
Art /DT	<i>As designers we will observe a range of pencil cases to sketch to develop ideas about shape, colour, form and pattern. We will be designing our own pencil cases and making our very own.</i>
RE	<i>In RE we will be focusing on Christianity. We will be looking at what Christmas means to Christians.</i>
Computing	<i>Presenting information and Programming Turtle Logo</i>
PSHE	<i>In our PSHE lessons, we will be following the Jigsaw unit of learning based on 'Celebrating Differences.'</i>
P. E	<i>In our PE lessons we will be focusing on Dance. We will be using our knowledge of solids, liquids and gases and choreographing a dance inspired by the different movements of the states of matter,</i>
Science	<i>As scientists, we will learn about the properties of solids, liquids and gases including the viscosity of liquids and comparing them with the temperatures at which water changes state. We will be investigating how water changes state due to heating and cooling.</i>
Spanish	<i>In Spanish we will be naming parts of the body, naming items of clothing and identifying colours</i>