

# Tremors



Welcome back to school and a very Happy New Year! We trust that you all had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed the festivities and the time with your children. We can't wait to hear all about the lovely things that you have been doing in the holidays. We hope that you are all feeling nice and refreshed and ready for the next half term. We're so excited to welcome the children back so they can continue their learning journey. We have been busy preparing lots of exciting activities for our topic this term: Tremors.

The start of any new term is always important for your children. We hope that the children will see the year as one in which to consolidate learning, move forward, improve their work to the best of their ability and to take pride in everything they do. We will be focussing on continuing to build relationships, and ensuring classes are happy safe places where the children will thrive. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in working with us to support the children. We in school will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way. The children are doing a wonderful job!

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

**Curriculum Focus –Our topic is 'Tremors.'**

Overwhelming and mighty, Mother Nature's awesome energies hiss and roar deep within the Earth. Plates collide, spewing lava. Rocks rain down and mud slides in torrents. Towns and cities vanish under ashen clouds. Discover the dangerous and ferocious world of natural disasters and glimpse their savage and deadly effects. Visit the ancient city of historic Pompeii, frozen in time, then create blistering explosions from model volcanoes that fire foamy lava. Discover the properties of rocks shaped by the Earth's breath-taking power. Watch out. Volcanologists detect formidable rumblings from an extinct volcano in Scotland's capital. Red alert! What would you do?

**English Focus** – we will be using another modern classic 'Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman to support the children's reading and writing skills.

**Reading:** We will build on our existing reading skills with a focus on consolidating our decoding, prediction and retrieval skills as we read 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' 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.

**Writing:** As writers we will be learning how to write an effective story opener (linked to 'The Firework Maker's Daughter.') so we know how to hook in the reader. We will then move onto newspaper report writing, developing our knowledge of sentence structure and how to use direct speech, linked to some shocking events. Exception words so we can use them confidently in our writing across the curriculum before learning more about suffixes. We will continue to write through different genres to support our learning of the topic. Children will be learning to write narratives, non-chronological reports, information posters, recounts, newspaper reports, poetry and bring their writing to life using drama

**Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:** We will maintain and build on our existing knowledge of what makes a sentence, as well as how we can use a range of conjunctions to join and extend our ideas. We will also revisit a range of punctuation and develop our knowledge of using inverted commas to punctuate direct speech. 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 continued focus on handwriting ensuring it is of the highest standard in all aspects of 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 column addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, money and statistics. Further, our focus seeks to revise known multiplications while increasing our knowledge of the 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9- times table: this will be underpinned by a growing understanding of division facts and the relationship between the two.

**Enrichment Experience Term 3**

Our enrichment experience this term will be led by the Divergent Drama Company who support education through exploration. The Divergent Drama Company delivers drama-based workshops and theatre shows linked with the national curriculum. The topic we will be exploring is Volcanoes. This will take place in school on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### 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, Harlequin & Eider Classes –Wednesday & Thursday

Due to the current circumstances P.E kits will be brought into school on P.E days left in school for the next day then taken home. 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.**

### Drinks

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

### 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:

**History/Geography** - What happens when the Earth shakes? In this project, we'll find out about the dangerous world of natural disasters and their deadly effects.

This half term we'll gather rock samples, find out about different types of rocks and sort them according to their properties. By carrying out research, we'll investigate the Earth's layers and the location of volcanoes, discovering what causes them to erupt. We'll write powerful poetry inspired by our work on volcanoes. Working as archaeologists, we'll locate Mount Vesuvius on a map and find out what it was like to live in Pompeii during the eruption. Using our model making skills, we'll build earthquake-proof structures and test them out. We'll also use different modelling materials to create a volcano – watch out, it's going to blow!

**Reading** – Children should be reading at home at least 4 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 summer. 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 check. Please log on to Times Tables Rockstar - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

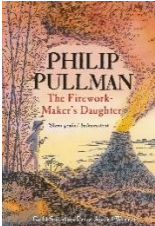
**Spikey Takeaway Menu** – will include a selection of work across different subject areas to be completed over a 2-week period.

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](mailto:ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk)

Mrs Marsh-Ballard, Miss Swann & Mrs James

# TREMORS



<p>English</p> 	<p>In English we will be exploring the well-loved tale of 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. What Lila wants to be more than anything else in the world is . . . a Firework-Maker! But firework-making is not just about being able to make Crackle-Dragons and Golden Sneezes. There is also one special secret: every Firework-Maker must make a perilous journey to face the terrifying Fire-Fiend! We will be writing recounts; poetry; narratives; and newspaper reports.</p>
<p>Art &amp; DT</p>	<p>In art we will be looking at the UK artist Nick Rowland we will copy his art style and techniques such as splattering, flicking, dripping and blowing to capture the explosive nature of a volcano. In Dt we will be designing and making 3D structures linked to volcanoes.</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>In history we will the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and The Lost City of Pompeii. We are going to dig up secrets about this buried ancient civilization.</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>In geography we will be describing key aspects of physical geography including volcanoes and earthquakes. We will be investigating: How volcanoes are formed • How volcanoes erupt • How earthquakes and tsunamis occur • The effect of natural disasters • Locations of volcanoes around the world • Volcano and earthquake disaster plans.</p>
<p>RE</p>	<p>In RE we will focus on learning about what it means to be a Christian today.</p>
<p>Computing</p>	<p>In computing we will be learning about presenting information in a variety of ways and learning how to keep safe online.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>In maths we will be following National Curriculum supported by The White Rose Scheme. We will be working on Multiplication &amp; Division. Money and Statistics.</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<p>In our PSHE lessons, we will be following the Jigsaw unit of learning- Dreams &amp; Goals. Aspirations, dreams and goals give a sense of purpose. Setting sensible, achievable but challenging goals can help us to learn new skills, step out of our comfort zone and feel proud of our achievements along the way. A positive attitude and a growth mindset are necessary to successfully achieve our goals.</p>
<p>P. E</p>	<p>In P.E we will be looking at the skills needed for team games and developing, strength, stamina and agility. PE will be Games this half-term, focusing on key skills such as teamwork, ball handling, throwing and catching and keeping warm on those crisp winter days!</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>In Science, we will learn about: • Sorting, organising and experimenting with different types of rock • What is soil? • What are fossils? How are they formed? • Working scientifically. We will also be investigating sound.</p>