



**Sandpiper, Harlequin & Teal  
Year 3 & 4  
Misty Mountain Sierra**

Welcome back! It is lovely to see the children back from the Christmas break and keen to learn. We hope you've all had a wonderful break and are looking forward to the start of another busy term.

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 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!**

**Curriculum Focus –Our topic is 'Misty Mountain Sierra.'**

Mighty mountains peak above the morning mists, imposing and eternal, rocky outcrops at their feet. Discover how these giants are formed, as a fold or a block, a dome or a plateau. Follow the water cycle's course from peak to valley and meet the exceptional tribes of the hostile Himalayas. But look out. What's that by that tree? Its footprints are huge. Have we found the Yeti?

During this half term, we're going up in the world, up a hill, upland area or moor, and noticing how the weather changes, we'll use a range of maps, information books and websites to investigate mountains around the world. We'll find out where the highest mountains are, learn how to use a compass. Inspired by the magnificent mountains of the world, we'll complete graphs showing heights, look at webcam and satellite images and create wonderful mountain art. Using our literacy skills, we'll write mountain-shaped poems and compose songs about the water cycle. We'll also examine how mountains are displayed on a map and build an animated water cycle to look at changing states of matter.

**English Focus – We will be using the book 'Everest – Reaching the Roof of the World' by David Long**

**English:** In English, we will be using 'Everest' 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. In English, we will be using Everest by David Long and several genres of writing will be explored. The children will learn to identify the audience for and purpose of their writing. They will be expected to describe settings, characters and to use dialogue within their stories. 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.

We will build on our existing reading skills with a focus on consolidating our decoding, prediction and retrieval skills as we read 'Everest' before developing our prediction and inference skills through imagery, drama and short texts linked to our learning. 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.

**Maths Focus –** we will be following the National Curriculum supported by Oak National Academy. We will continue to develop further our understanding of multiplication and division, length & perimeter and fractions.

Furthermore, 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.

## Values

We will also be continuing to work on our values of safety, focus and respect for all.

## 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 – Monday & Wednesday**
- ✓ **Harlequin – Monday & Wednesday**
- ✓ **Teal –Monday (swimming) & Wednesday**

## 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....

**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.

**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  $3 \times 4$  but  $4 \times 3$  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 26. 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>

**Home Learning Projects** - During this topic we would like the children to complete a home learning project. This homework is set over a longer period and gives your child a choice in how they want to extend their learning. This term the homework is to create a 3D model of a mountain using any materials. Making a model of a mountain is an excellent way to understand the processes involved in the formation of mountains. Please return the completed mountain models to school by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Happy mountain making!

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)

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Formoy-Brown, Mrs Swanson, Mrs Fawlkner and Miss Leake