

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back everyone after the Christmas holidays!

In Year 4, we have many exciting things lined up for our learning. With Geography as the main driver, our cross-curricular topic is 'Misty Mountain, Winding River'



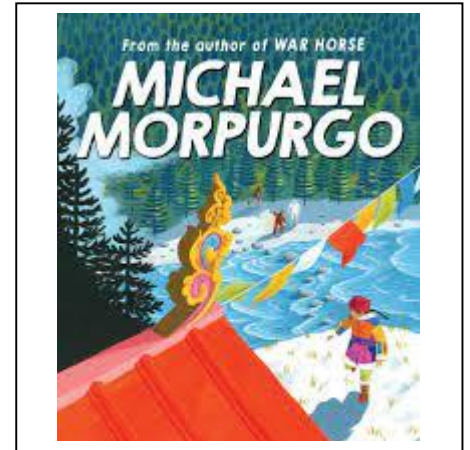
### English

We will be reading *King of the Cloud Forests* by Michael Morpurgo - 'I see a ruler standing before me. I tell you, this boy of yours will be king, and soon.' When Japan invades China, Ashley and Uncle Sung are forced to flee. It is a perilous journey across the Himalayas, and they struggle to survive. Then Ashley is captured. Who are these strange creatures that revere him as their king?

#### In our writing:

Writing a diary entry provides an ideal context for children to describe places and events using the first person. They could include facts from their research in the geography sessions, using topic-specific vocabulary to describe a river of their choice. Children will use expanded noun phrases to add descriptive detail.

Explanation writing requires children to explain how or why something works, using images or diagrams. Children will use fronted adverbials and conjunctions to vary sentence structure and show cause and effect. They could also include technical vocabulary and create a glossary to explain the definitions.



**Maths** - Speed and accuracy of calculations is our focus throughout the spring term. We will work on the rapid recall of our multiplication tables and the associated division facts, which will help the children in all areas of maths. Problem solving strategies, will be built upon, with the problems becoming increasingly challenging. We will continue to explore patterns and the relationships between different strands in maths.

**Topic** - Misty Mountain, Winding River.



This project teaches children about the characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world, including a detailed exploration of the ecosystems and processes that shape them and the land around them.

The children will investigate the geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America.

**RE** - We will begin the spring term year with the Local Church - Life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish. We then move onto Relating: giving and receiving (continuing the work of Jesus). We then conclude the spring term with Lent/Easter - Giving: self-discipline.

**PSHE** - In term 3 - 'Dreams and Goals' - the children talk about their hopes and dreams. They discuss how it feels when dreams don't come true and how to cope with / overcome feelings of disappointment. In term 4 - 'Healthy Me' focuses on How would you handle a difficult situation? Would a friend handle it differently? Why? Do you find it easy to say no to something you don't want to do? Resilience and resourcefulness will explore the challenges that we face and how to overcome them. This will underpin all of our learning.

**Science** - In term 3 - **Electricity** - appliances and safety. The children will construct simple series circuits and name their parts and functions including switches, wires and cells. The children will investigate conductors and insulators and their common features. In term 4 - **Sound**. How sounds are made and travel as vibrations through a medium to the ear. Pitch and volume and find out how both can be changed.

**PE** - Real PE - Unit 3 (Cognitive; weeks 1-6) the skill focus will be identifying specific parts of performance to work on and improve together with using awareness of space and making good decisions. Unit 4 (Creative; weeks 7 - 12) the skill focus will be on linking actions and developing sequences of movements that express individual ideas. Please ensure that your child has kit appropriate for both indoor/outdoor sessions.

**Computing** - Teach Computing - in term 3, we will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. We will use Logo, a text-based programming language. In term 4, we will consider how and why data is collected over time. They will look at data points, data sets, and logging intervals.

**Music** - Charanga Musical School - in term 3, we will be learning about Stop! – a song/rap about bullying and in term 4, we will be learning about a Soul/Gospel Song by Bill Withers called Lean on Me.

**Home Learning** The home learning tasks that the children will be expected to complete are as follows: Read - Encourage your child to read as much as possible as this will help with their comprehension and give them ideas for their own writing (daily).

Practise spellings (daily)

Times table practise (daily)

Mathematics task/activity (weekly)

English task/activity (weekly)

We are looking forward to working with you this term. Mrs Curry and Mrs Cook