Optional Homework

Here is your choice of homework tasks. From the nine activities below, you need to choose 4 to complete over the whole term. You will have 2 weeks to complete each task (sometimes more!), so the expectation is that you will put in care and effort and complete it to the best of your ability. You can present your work in an appropriate style of your choice – a poster, model, booklet, diagram, leaflet etc. and it may be word-processed or completed by hand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Medical Matters</td>
<td>There are many dangers that you must be prepared for when climbing. Find out about one of the following medical problems climbers may encounter and how to avoid or cure them: Hypothermia; Altitude or Mountain Sickness; Dehydration and Frostbite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story Time</td>
<td>Write a story that is based in a mountain range, a story that is about explorers or people who live in that environment. You could include the animals that are found in these places, the people who live there or the mythical Yeti.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival Bag</td>
<td>Decide what you would include in your survival bag for a trek up the Himalayan Mountain Range. You may only take 10 items for you to carry personally. What will you need? Explain your choices and why you feel they will help you to survive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterchef</td>
<td>Create a meal that would provide the essential energy required for a mountain hike. Or why not make a fruit and nut energy bar? Bring it in for us to taste (if nut free) or take a photo and ask your friends and family to comment on your creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Good Is My Equipment?</td>
<td>If you travel to mountains, you need to know that you can trust your equipment. How good are your shoes? How reliable is your rucksack? Carry out some experiments to test these pieces of equipment. Record the results and the tests you do. Think scientifically! You could compare different rucksacks and boots......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare and Contrast</td>
<td>Choose two different mountain ranges to research and compare. Your findings can be presented in any way you wish; use a model, a painting, an information booklet or even a PowerPoint presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Design</td>
<td>Make your very own mountain in whichever form you wish; it may be a papier-mâché model, a mountain cake or biscuits or even something you have created using fabric.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary Entry</td>
<td>Write a diary entry as if you were a mountain explorer. What amazing things would you see and discover?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An overview of the Spring Term

Below is an outline of what we aim to cover across this term. The majority of the children’s lessons will be linked with mountains and rivers, as chosen by the children. We will continue to prepare the children for their up and coming SATs week but hope to embed the skills primarily to get them ready for the start of their secondary education.

### Maths

Our focuses for this term will be: decimals, fractions and percentages, measures, geometry and ratio and proportion. We are also looking forward to the school's maths week after half term, where the children will metaphorically climb Mount Everest whilst developing their data handling skills.

### Geography

Geography will form a large part of our topic work this term. We will be looking at what mountains are, how they are formed and where they are located around the world. We will then move onto looking at the stages of a river and where they can be found in the UK as well as around the World.

### In other areas of the curriculum

Many of our other foundation subjects will link with the geography this term. The children have already begun their art project on moving water and are looking forward to sewing hats, in DT, after half term.

In ICT, the children have already started trialling our school blogging site, Kidblog. They will also be designing a maths quiz for Year 2 on Scratch and developing skills on Excel.

In PE this term, the children will continue to develop their gymnastics as well play hockey and netball.

As an extra, the children will be able to talk to some people who have climbed mountains and we also have a couple of other treats up our sleeves - details later this term!

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### English

The children have already got off to a great start this term whilst basing their writing on Sir Charlie Stinky Socks! We will be moving onto a poetry unit next and then writing a mystery story (requested by the children). Finally we will end the term by looking at biographies - particularly those of famous mountain climbers!

### PSHCE

This term’s topics are entitled Going for goals! And Good to be me - both follow the SEAL scheme of work. We will also be starting our next round of transition visits to the Weald.

### Science

We will be looking at evolution and living things and their habitats. The children are particularly interested in finding out about mountain animals so we will be sure to include their habitat!
**Extra information**

**Optional homework**
You will have received the optional homework for this term. The children have chosen the tasks themselves and so we hope they will enjoy completing them. We look forward to seeing many of these homeworks and know that completing them will help prepare the children for the good homework habits that they will need next year, at secondary school.

**Places to visit**
As the children want to base the topic around mountains and rivers, climbing a mountain would be a fantastic way for the children to be immersed in the topic! We don't have any mountains in Sussex but what about going for some extended walks in the countryside, which is right on our doorstep?

> The South Downs provide excellent walking trails for all abilities and there is also the National Park that is worth a visit.  

> Or there are several rivers nearby that can be accessed at different points.  
[http://www.violetdesigns.co.uk/midhurst_river_walk.htm](http://www.violetdesigns.co.uk/midhurst_river_walk.htm)

**Homework that needs to be completed**
Please remember the following homework still needs to be completed:

**Reading** - this does not always have to be to an adult but having discussions with your children about the books they are reading will really develop their reading ability. The children should record in their yellow Reading Logs, when they read.

**Spelling** - most children are now recording their spellings in their blue books every Friday so they can learn their given spellings at home. Please note that the spellings will change roughly every two weeks - an adult will date and sign the page.

**Maths** - the children will continue to receive maths homework each week (these are set on Thursday in the blue book and due in on Monday). These maybe *MyMaths* tasks or parts of SATs papers on *SATSinteractive* (Letter to follow with more details about this website). They should also look out for the competitions and challenges set on the website *Sumdog*.

**Useful websites**

**Woodlands Junior** - General information about mountains  
[http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/mountains.htm](http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/mountains.htm)

**National Geographic Kids** - A great site for information about mountain animals and general habitat information  

**NeoK12** - Information and videos about mountains  
[http://www.neok12.com/Mountains.htm](http://www.neok12.com/Mountains.htm)

**Easy Science for Kids** - More fun facts about mountains  