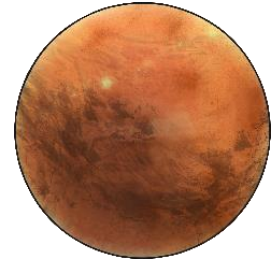


# Welcome to Mars Class

September 2024



Welcome to Mars Class and the beginning of an exciting year of learning. The teachers working in our class will be Mrs Dilleigh (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon) and Mrs Gardiner (Wednesday morning, Thursday and Friday). Our teaching assistants this year are Mrs Mould and Mrs Cowlshaw.

This newsletter aims to set out the key information to be shared about this half term. Apologies, as the first newsletter of the year it is rather long and comprehensive. We will keep you up to date on any extra information on our class page and through text messages.

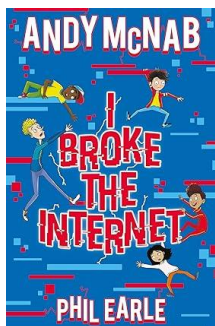
On our transition morning before the summer holidays, the children have chosen the name for our class mascot. *Meet Cosmo....*



## Our learning in September and October:

Our new topic for this half term is 'Italy. It will cover the following areas:

- Where in the world is Europe and what is it like?
- Labelling a map of Italy
- The physical features of Italy
- Famous cities and landmarks of Italy
- Italian culture and beliefs



## Class Book:

The children voted on our first class read and have chosen, 'The day I broke the Internet' by Andy McNab and Phil Earle.

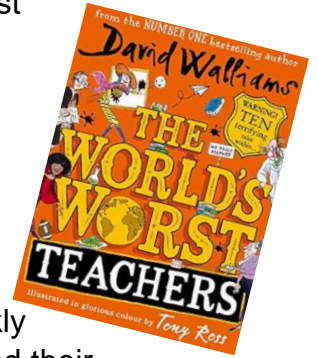
## English:

At the start of this half term, we will be taking part in a whole school writing activity based on Disney/Pixar's short film 'Lifted'. This will involve retelling Stu's hilarious, but disastrous, attempts at abducting an unsuspecting farmer from his bed.



The clip can be viewed on YouTube or Disney plus if you wish to watch the short 4-minute film together at home.

Children will then study character descriptions using the book 'The World's Worst Teachers' before writing their own worst teacher description taking inspiration from both the book and Miss Trunchball from the novel 'Matilda'.



Following this, children will create a 'Teacher pleaser' machine studying the features of explanation texts.

Children will be given spellings to practise in class, where they will learn the rule and use these spellings for handwriting practise, too. They will have a weekly test on the spelling, on a **Wednesday**, to see how well the children have retained their knowledge. An overview of the spellings patterns this half term will be added to the class page for any parents who wish to explore spellings further with children at home.

### **Maths:**

Our focus for this half term will be Place Value and Number, including:

- To know how to count in 1,000s.
- To know how to find 1, 10, 100, 1,000 more or less.
- To know how to use a number line to represent numbers to 10,000.
- To know how to compare and order numbers to 10,000.
- To know Roman numerals to 100.
- To know how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1000.
- Add and subtract numbers with 3 or 4 digits

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. Please see the additional letter about our Year 4 times table challenge on the class page.

### **Other curriculum areas include:**

- Science: States of Matter
- PE – Athletics (Wednesday and Thursday)
- Art – Drawing and painting linked to the work of Georgia O'Keefe
- Music – Mamma Mia
- PSHE – Think Positive
- Computing – Computer systems and Networks
- Religious Education - What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?

### **Supporting learning at home:**

- **Reading:** Every child needs to read every day; including weekends. In Year 4, children should aim to read for at least 15-20 minutes and talk to an adult about what they have read. Children will be given a reading journal to record their reading. During this half term, children will be supported in setting up and organising this journal and they should be in school **every day**. As the year progresses, children will become more independent in organising their own journal. We appreciate parents support in checking and encouraging children to update their reading regularly and listening to children read.
- **Times Tables:** Children will work on our times table challenge with a test on their individual focus table on a **Thursday**. All children will start the challenge at Year 4 Bronze and progress through the challenge at their own pace.

- Please ensure children to practise using TTRockstars (login in back of reading journal), hit the button (<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>) or maths frame MTC check (<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check> )
- **Homework:** Children will be set weekly homework on a Thursday which will be due back the following Tuesday. It will follow this **Thursday-Tuesday** pattern throughout the year. You may support your child in tasks but please ensure if they are struggling that they know they can ask us for help.
  - Children are welcome to do their homework in school, during playtime if they do not have time at home. We really don't want homework to be a source of stress or anxiety, only an extension of the children's learning at school. If your child is struggling with their homework, please stop and bring it in to school. An adult will go through it with them.
  - **The first homework task will be set on the week beginning 23/9/24**

### **Useful information:**

**Coats:** Please make sure your child brings a coat so we can go outside! Also ensure that **EVERYTHING is named!** If it isn't, we cannot return it.

**PE:** Children need to bring in a full PE kit to change in school. As the weather starts to get colder, we recommend joggers and a jumper/hoodie in addition to shorts and T-shirts. Please also make sure that your child has a named water bottle. In Autumn one, we will have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday**.

### **Key Days**

Tuesday – Homework to be handed in

Wednesday – Spelling test

Thursday – Times Table test

Wednesday and Thursday – PE days

If you have any questions to ask, or have information to tell us, please get in touch via the school office ([julie.carter@littleaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:julie.carter@littleaton.derbyshire.sch.uk) or 01332 831471). We will also be available on the playground at the end of the school day.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Karen Gardiner, Jayne-Ann Dilleigh and the Year 4 team