

Ants Class

Spring 2 Newsletter



This newsletter aims to set out the key information to be shared about this half term. We will keep you up to date on any extra information on our class page and through text messages.

Our learning in February and March:

Our topic for this half term is '**Africa**' and will be focused on trade and food miles. Within this unit, children will look at:

- The common misconceptions about the continent of Africa – focusing on the varied landscapes, economics and climate across the 54 countries.
- African trade, imports and exports
- A focus study on the country of Egypt.
- Fair trade and the impact for African farmers.
- Food miles for popular dishes

Class Book:

We will continue to read, 'The Wonder brothers' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce



English:

In our narrative work this half term we will be aiming to scare our reading writing a suspense story. We will use the talk for writing sequence based on the model 'The Old Manor House' before writing our own scary stories based on the Abandoned cottages on Alfreton Road.

Children will be given spellings to learn at home on a **Monday** each week (in the back of their reading journals). They will be tested on the words on a **Friday**. These spellings will also be taught in class.

Maths:

Our focus for this half term will be fractions.

It will include:

- Understanding the whole
- Partition a mixed number
- Compare and order mixed numbers
- Convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers
- Equivalent fractions
- Add and subtract fractions

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4.

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: Scientists and Inventors / STEM week
- PE – Netball (Friday)
- Music – BBC 10 pieces
- PSHE – Our World
- Religious Education – Why are festivals important to religious communities?
- Art – Printing based on African designs
- French – taught by Mrs. Schumann on a Wednesday

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:** Please ensure children practise using TTRockstars (login information is in the 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 Wednesday which will be due back the following Monday. It will follow this **Wednesday-Monday** 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 lunchtime, if they do not have time at home. Homework should support learning, not cause stress. If your child finds it difficult, please stop and bring it into school for support.

Useful information:

Coats: Please make sure your child brings a coat so we can go outside!

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 Spring one, we will have PE on a **Friday**.

Please ensure everything is clearly named so it can be returned.

Key Days

Monday – Homework to be handed in

Friday – Spelling test

Friday – PE

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 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, Paul Schumann and the Year 4 team