

# Ants Class

## Autumn 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 November and December:

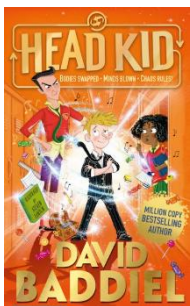
This half term, we are going all the way back in time to discover prehistoric life in our new topic: **Stone Age to Iron Age**

As the period of prehistory is so vast, we will continue with this topic during the Spring term too.

Throughout the whole unit we will cover the following areas:

- What is prehistory and how do we know about it?
- What was life like in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic period?
- What was life like during the Neolithic period?
- What can we learn about life in the Stone Age from a study of Skara Brae?
- Did bronze use change everything in prehistoric Britain?
- Why was Stonehenge built?
- How much did life change in the iron age?
- Continuity and change in homes, tools and diet across the whole period.

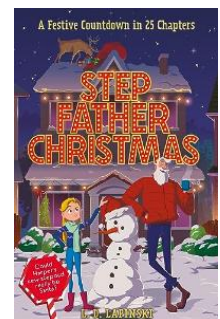
To get this topic off to an exciting start, we will have a Stone Age Day in school on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. On this day, our guest archaeologist will lead the children in an archaeological dig where items will be categorised and assembled into a museum; as well as creating Stone Age tools and jewellery. This day has kindly been paid for by the school PTA.



### Class Book:

In November, we will finish the book 'Head Kid' by David Baddiel.

Throughout December, we will get into the Christmas Spirit with the advent chapter a day book, 'Stepfather Christmas' by L.D. Lapinski



### **English:**

The main focus this half term is on information reports. Children will learn the features of non-chronological reports using our model text, 'The Truth about Trolls' before completing a class shared write and an assessment piece on the topic of giants.

Towards the end of the half term, we will complete a piece of descriptive writing based on a clip from the film 'The Polar Express'.

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 area and then mental multiplication and division:

- What is area?
- Counting squares
- Comparing areas
- Multiples of 3,6,9, 7, 11 and 12
- Multiplying and dividing by 0 and 1
- Multiplying three numbers

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. They will be tested weekly on a **Wednesday** on their own focus times table as part of our individual challenge. Parents will be informed of their focus via text each week.

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

- Science: States of Matter
- PE – Basketball (**Thursday**)
- Music – Christmas songs in preparation for the PTA coffee morning on 5<sup>th</sup> December
- PSHE – VIP relationships
- Religious Education - Why do some people think that life is like a journey and what significant experiences mark this?
- Art – Mixed Media Cave art
- DT – Seasonal stockings
- 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:** Children will work on our times table challenge with a test on their individual focus table on a **Wednesday**. All children will start the challenge at Year 4 Bronze and progress through the challenge at their own pace.
  - 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 playtime, 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 Autumn two, we will have PE on a **Thursday**.

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

### **Key Days**

Thursday – PE

Monday – Homework to be handed in

Wednesday – Times table test

Friday – Spelling test

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, Paul Schumann and the Year 4 team