

Welcome to Ants Class

September 2025



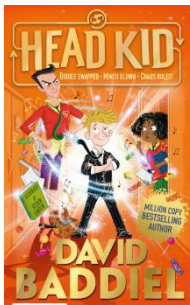
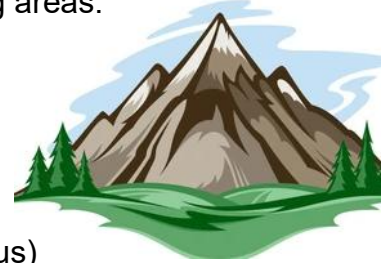
Welcome to Ants Class and the beginning of an exciting year of learning. The teachers working in our class will be Mrs. Gardiner (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning), Mrs. Dallison (Wednesday afternoon) and Mr. Schumann (Thursday and Friday). Our teaching assistant this year is Mrs. Cowlshaw.

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 September and October:

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

- What is a mountain and how are they formed?
- Where are the mountains in the UK located?
- How are mountains shown on maps?
- Where in the world are mountains and mountain ranges?
- What is the weather and climate like on mountains? (Andes focus)
- Why do tourists visit mountains?
- Introduction to biomes.



Class Book:

The children voted on our first class read and have chosen, 'Head Kid' by David Baddiel.

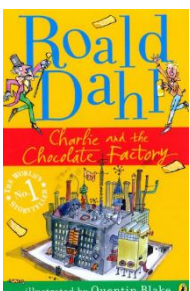
English:

At the start of this half term, we will be taking part in a whole school writing activity based on the animation 'The Lighthouse'.

The clip can be viewed on YouTube

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HfBbSUORvo>) if you wish to

watch the short 3-minute film together at home.



Children will then study setting descriptions based on 'The Chocolate Room' from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory before writing their own setting description based on a room of their imagination.

Following this, children will look at the process of making chocolate from 'bean to bar' studying the features of explanation texts.

Children will be given spellings to learn at home on a **Friday** each week for a test the following **Friday**. These spellings will also be taught in class.

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: Living things and their habitats.
- PE – Hockey and Orienteering (**Tuesday/ Thursday**)
- Music – Lean on Me
- PSHE – Think Positive
- Computing – Computer systems and Networks
- Religious Education - What do religions teach about right and wrong?
- 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 to 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. 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 into school. An adult will go through it with them.
 - **The first homework task will be set on Wednesday 17th September.**

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 **Tuesday** and **Thursday**.

Key Days

Tuesday and Thursday – PE days

Wednesday – 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@litleeaton.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