

# Cheetah Class

## January 2024



Welcome back to the Cheetah Class for Spring 1. The adults working in our class will be myself (Mr Farina), Mrs Lenton and also Mrs Rogers (who is returning part-time). Mrs Dilliegh will continue to teach the class on a Monday.

### **Our learning in January and February:**

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. During this unit, we will cover the following areas:

- What is prehistory and how do we know about it?
- How did the prehistoric diet change as people moved from hunter-gatherer to farmer?
- How did the discovery at Skara Brae change historians' views of prehistoric life?
- What is the significance of Stonehenge?
- How much had life changed by the end of the iron age?
- How did prehistoric life compare to life today?

To get this topic off to an exciting start, we will have a Stone Age day in school on Wednesday 10th January. 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.

**English:** Our first unit will be writing instructions on how to trap a cave bear. This will be followed by instructions on how to keep a mouth clean, and then we will have a creative story telling week.

Our class book will be 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King.

**Maths:** Our focus for this term will be multiplication and division. We will cover:

- Multiplying three numbers
- Multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100
- Factor pairs
- Written method of multiplication and division
- Area of shapes

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. Children will continue to progress through the times table challenge with a test each Friday on the individual table being learnt. They will need to know multiplication and division facts and be able to complete 39 or 40 questions within 4 minutes to progress to the next stage.

TTRockstars will be updated each week to reflect the table children are focussing on. Further details can be found on the class page of the website.

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

- Science: Animals including humans
- PE – Dance (Mr Singh)/ Dodgeball (Mr Farina)
- Art – Cave paintings and Stonehenge (mixed media)
- Music – With Mrs Dilliegh
- PSHE – Safety First
- RE - Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
- French – children will be taught by a specialist French teacher (Mrs Duncan) on a Tuesday afternoon.

### **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 continue to use their reading journal to record their reading. The journals should be in school **every day**. As the year progresses, children will become more independent in organising their own journal. I 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 **Friday**. Children will continue with their 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 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 me 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.

These homework routines will remain the same throughout the year. If no homework is being set or days need to change for a particular reason, I will ensure you are informed via text.

### **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, I 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. We will have PE on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday**.

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

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Robin Farina

