

# Welcome to Cheetah Class

November 2023



Welcome back to the Cheetah Class for Autumn 2. The adults working in our class will be myself (Mr Farina) and Mrs Lenton. Mrs Dilleigh will continue to teach the class on a Monday.

This newsletter aims to set out the key information to be shared about this half term.

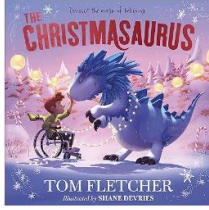
## Our learning in November and December:

Our new topic this term is a Geography unit all about 'Mountains' and will focus on the key aspects of features of mountains. Children will be learning the following:

- To describe and understand key aspects of physical geography including: climate zones, biomes, hills and mountains.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe the features being studied.

## Class Book:

At the start of the half term we will be reading 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' by Andy Shepherd. Following that we will read the 'Christmasaurus' by Tom Fletcher.



## English:



We are starting our half term with a week of performance poetry based around 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen. After that we will be writing a fiction piece about an abandoned manor house. Finally, we will be writing a persuasive text following the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit'.

Spellings will continue to be in the same format as in Year 3, the 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 Monday, to see how well the children have retained their knowledge.

## Maths:

Our focus for this half term will be Multiplication and Division, including:

- Multiples of 3, 6, 9 and 7
- Learning division facts for the 3, 6, 9 and 7 times tables
- Exploring rapid recall of times table facts
- Improving knowledge of all times tables up to 12

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. In May 2024 there will be a multiplication check of all year 4 children across the country. There will be a particular focus on the quick and accurate recall of the times tables through the year.

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

- Science: States of Matter
- PE – Fitness and Basketball
- D&T – Textiles – Designing and sewing seasonal stockings
- Music – Christmas songs (with Mrs Dilliegh)
- PSHE – Relationships (social)
- French – The weather (With Madam Duncan)
- Computing – Data and information
- Religious Education – Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
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### **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**. This challenge follows a similar style to year 3, with some slight adaptations. Therefore, 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 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. In Autumn one, 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@littleaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:julie.carter@littleaton.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 support,  
Mr Robin Farina