

Welcome to Meerkat Class

September 2026



Welcome to Meerkat Class and the beginning of an exciting year of learning. Working in Meerkats Class this year will be Mrs Gardiner and Mrs Dallison:

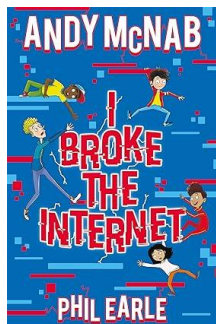
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
am	Mrs Gardiner	Mrs Dallison	Mrs Gardiner	Mrs Gardiner	Mrs Gardiner
pm			Mrs Dallison		

This newsletter contains key information about the term ahead. We will keep you updated with any additional information via our class page and text messages.

Our learning in September and October:

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

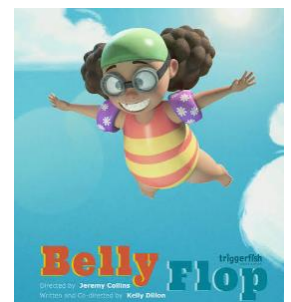
- Where in the world is Europe and what is it like?
- Labelling a map of Italy
- The physical features of Italy
- The human features of Italy
- Famous cities and landmarks of Italy
- Italian culture and beliefs



Class Book: Our first class novel is The Day I Broke the Internet by Andy McNab and Phil Earle.

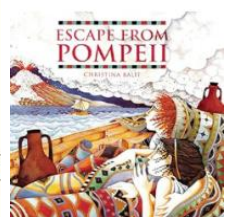
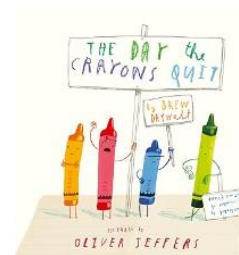
Whole school Write:

Every September, children in Years 1-6 complete a short writing activity. This year our work is based on the animation 'Belly Flop'. The clip can be viewed on YouTube if you wish to watch the short 4-minute film together at home. [Award-winning animated Short Film 'Belly Flop'](#)



English:

Following the Whole School Write, children will write setting descriptions and a short story based on Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit. They will then write persuasive letters inspired by The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt.



Children will be given spellings to learn at home on a **Monday** each week for a test on **Friday**. These spellings will also be taught in class. The first set of spellings will be sent home on **Monday 14th September**.

Maths:

Our focus for this half term will be Place Value and Number, including:

- Count in 1,000s.
- Find 1, 10, 100 and 1,000 more or less than a given number.
- Represent numbers to 10,000 on a number line.
- Compare and order numbers to 10,000.
- Read and write Roman numerals to 100.
- Round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000.
- Add and subtract numbers with 3- and 4-digit numbers.

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

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: States of Matter
- PE – Rounders (Thursday) and Orienteering (alternate Fridays)
- Art – Drawing and painting linked to the work of Georgia O'Keefe
- Music – Lean on Me
- PSHE – Think Positive
- Computing – Internet Safety
- Religious Education - What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?

Supporting learning at home:

• Reading:

- Reading every day is an important part of your child's learning journey, and we encourage all children to read regularly. In Year 4, children should aim to read for at least 10-15 minutes each day. While we provide opportunities for reading throughout the week at school, regular reading at home is also an important expectation and helps to build confidence, fluency, and enjoyment of books.
- Children are welcome to read a wide range of age-appropriate materials at home, including library books, books from home, magazines, comics, newspapers, and carefully selected online texts. The most important thing is that they are reading regularly and developing a love of reading.
- Each child will be given a reading diary to record their reading. We greatly appreciate the support of parents and carers in encouraging daily reading, listening to their child read aloud when possible, and helping to keep reading diaries up to date. Thank you for working with us to develop positive reading habits and a lifelong love of reading.

- **Times Tables:** A little and often approach is often best when learning and quickly recalling times table knowledge. Year 4 will be taking part with the NCETM maths mastery programme this year to support children's multiplication knowledge. Further information will be provided at a later date.

- **Homework:** Children will be set weekly homework on a Monday which will be due back by Friday. It will follow this **Monday-Friday** pattern throughout the year.

- You may support your child with homework tasks, but please remind them that they can always ask us for help if they are finding something difficult.
- Children are welcome to complete their homework in school during lunchtime homework club if they do not have time to do it 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 **Monday 21st September 2026.**

Useful information:

Coats: Please make sure your child brings a coat so we can go outside! Please ensure that all clothing, water bottles and other belongings are clearly 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 Thursday and alternative Fridays

Key Days

Monday - Reading journals checked; homework and spellings sent home.

Thursday - PE

Alternate Fridays - PE

Friday - Spelling test and homework collected/marked.

If you have any questions or would like to share any information about your child, please contact us via the school office. (julie.carter@littleeaton.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 and the Year 4 Team