

# THE DREY CLASS NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to the Spring term at Culworth Primary Academy. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. This term should be an exciting adventure with plenty to learn of course!

Below you will find details about what we will be covering this term and some ways in which you can help your child. Please do not hesitate to come in and see me if you have any questions or can offer any expertise.

Miss White

## African Adventure!

Our topic this term is called 'African Adventure' which began with a day of African drumming and fruit tasting and we have also made some African instruments of our own! We are working on learning the names of African countries, their location and their climate. As a class we will compare the different environments in Africa and investigate the differences in lifestyle between people in urban and rural Africa. In Science we will be finding out about African habitats, predators and prey and separating materials to get clean water. We will be listening to African music and performing repeating drumming patterns, we will also be responding to African music through movement. Most subjects and skills will be taught through this topic so that each lesson has a purpose and is meaningful in a context.

## Literacy

In Literacy we will be looking at various African themed fables and the language/techniques used to write them. In our lessons we will look at extended noun phrases and how these can be used in our writing. We will be learning about the structure of sentences and building up to writing our own fables. The children will find out information on Africa using fact books and documentaries and make notes on what they have found out. Once we have reviewed the layout of non-fiction books we will use our notes to write our own non-fiction books. This term children should focus on different ways to start their sentences.

## Numeracy

This term we will be covering:

- **Place Value** – writing numbers in words and continuing a sequence of numbers.
- **Addition and Subtraction** – learning to use formal methods to add and subtract numbers.
- **Shape** – giving directions using clockwise, anticlockwise and right angles.
- **Measures** – measuring and comparing mass in g and kg.
- **Handling Data** – interpreting and constructing pictographs and tally charts.
- **Time** – reading the time to 5 minutes using analogue and digital clocks.
- **Multiplication and Division** – learning to use formal methods to multiply and divide numbers.
- **Fractions** – learning to recognise equivalent fractions.

## **P.E.**

This term we will be having P.E. on a Tuesday every week with Mr Cherry. Every other Monday we will have gymnastics with Miss Richardson. However, please make sure kits are in school all week as I will do a P.E. session on the weeks that Miss Richardson does not teach. They should have shorts and T-shirts for indoor sports and outdoor clothing including trainers. Please ensure everything in their P.E. kit is named.

## **R.E.**

We will be looking at traditional religions in small tribes and villages in Africa. The children will learn to be respectful and inquisitive about these religions. Islam will also be covered and the children will compare similarities and differences between Islam and their own religion.

## **Reading**

From 8.45 – 9.00am there is an opportunity to come into the classroom and share a book with your children. Please remind your children to be considerate when entering the classroom as it should be a calm and peaceful atmosphere for those reading quietly. There will be an opportunity for your children to read to an adult at school as often as possible, however it is also important that they also read at home at least once a week. Please sign their reading record when you have heard them read and encourage them to include their own feelings/responses to the books they have read.

## **Art/D.T.**

If your child does not have a painting apron or an old shirt to protect their school clothes, please can this be brought in as soon as possible and ensure it is clearly named. We will be producing artwork that explores warm colours and depicts an African landscape and producing African patterns through printing.

## **Homework**

The children have a creative learning task once a week this will be given out on a Friday to be handed in the following Wednesday. The children can present their work in a way which interests them; this can include work on the computer, drawings, photographs or 3D models. Please let me know if it was completed independently.

## **Supporting your child's learning at home**

Here are some suggested activities that you can do:

- Read a range of African stories and pick out interesting adjectives and adverbs.
- Explore how to make notes on useful information from non-fiction texts.
- Help them to log onto 'Mathletics' but allow them to work independently and make mistakes which they can learn from.
- Make models of African animals or landscapes.
- Research cities, villages, tourist attractions and wildlife in Africa.
- Watch the film 'Madagascar' or African documentaries.
- Get them talking to people who have been to countries in Africa and show them pictures or memorabilia.

# How can you help?

You are always welcome to come in and hear children read, you do not have to be available every week but you do need a DBS certificate. Please let me know if you are interested.

If you can, collect and bring in any objects from Africa that the children can look at.

If you have any knowledge, photographs or books on Africa, please let me know.

I am always in need of plastic bags so if you have any lying around please can I have them?