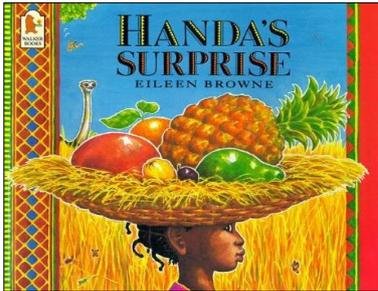


Reception Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you have had a thoroughly enjoyable half term!

Our key high-quality text this half term



Handa's Surprise
By Eileen Brown

Literacy

This half term our Literacy sessions will be largely focused around the text 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Brown. Through this text we will be beginning to explore characters and settings, develop our understanding of story sequencing and become storytellers ourselves! We will be focussing on the concepts of who, what and where and seeing how we can ask and answer these kind of questions. We will be thinking about descriptive language and making choices about which words best describe different characters and objects from the story. We will begin to discuss and develop our own ideas in order to tell our own stories too!

Reading & Phonics

This half term we will be continuing with our daily phonics lessons to consolidate the letter sounds and formations. We will be continuing to encourage the children to blend sounds together to read short words and sentences. Lots of oral practise of this skill will really help your child when blending to read!

As the term progresses we will be moving on to Phase 3 phonics which will include more letters of the alphabet and also consonant 'digraphs', which are two or three letters that make a sound when next to each other eg. ch, sh, th. These sounds can be more difficult to spot within words, so we will be engaging in activities to identify the sounds and encouraging the children to continue to blend sounds together.

We will be continuing to send home letter sounds and digraphs in your child's reading wallet for you to practise at home. Look out for some key words too!

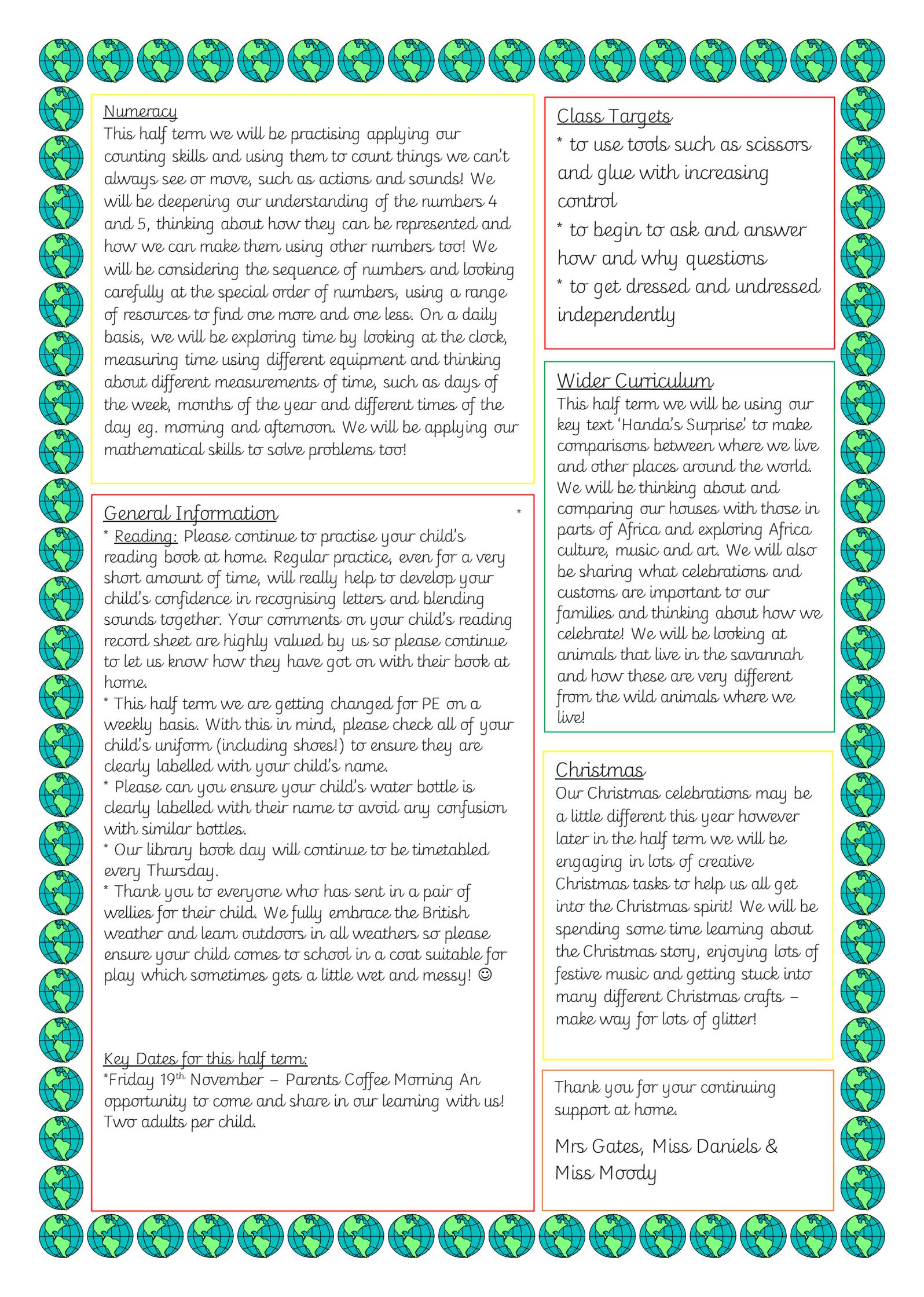
Reading books will continue to be sent home throughout the half term at a pace that suits your child. Please can we request you keep your child's reading book in their reading pack in their bookbag.

We will be engaging in focused group reading sessions this half term, where we will be practise our decoding and blending skills alongside our speaking and listening to develop comprehension and inference.

Fine Motor Skills & Writing

This half term we are continuing to develop our fine motor skills and dexterity to strengthen the muscles in our fingers and hands in order to establish a strong and comfortable pencil grip when writing. We are taking part in daily Dough Disco sessions to practise using the muscles in our hands in different ways. We are also taking part in daily "Squiggle While You Wiggle" sessions, where we combine gross motor movements and music to develop our pencil control and mark making.

In our writing sessions we are focussing on listening for the order of sounds in words we want to write and practising forming letters correctly. We will be practising lots of 3 letter words as well as encouraging the children to write for their own purposes!



Numeracy

This half term we will be practising applying our counting skills and using them to count things we can't always see or move, such as actions and sounds! We will be deepening our understanding of the numbers 4 and 5, thinking about how they can be represented and how we can make them using other numbers too! We will be considering the sequence of numbers and looking carefully at the special order of numbers, using a range of resources to find one more and one less. On a daily basis, we will be exploring time by looking at the clock, measuring time using different equipment and thinking about different measurements of time, such as days of the week, months of the year and different times of the day eg. morning and afternoon. We will be applying our mathematical skills to solve problems too!

General Information

- * Reading: Please continue to practise your child's reading book at home. Regular practice, even for a very short amount of time, will really help to develop your child's confidence in recognising letters and blending sounds together. Your comments on your child's reading record sheet are highly valued by us so please continue to let us know how they have got on with their book at home.
- * This half term we are getting changed for PE on a weekly basis. With this in mind, please check all of your child's uniform (including shoes!) to ensure they are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- * Please can you ensure your child's water bottle is clearly labelled with their name to avoid any confusion with similar bottles.
- * Our library book day will continue to be timetabled every Thursday.
- * Thank you to everyone who has sent in a pair of wellies for their child. We fully embrace the British weather and learn outdoors in all weathers so please ensure your child comes to school in a coat suitable for play which sometimes gets a little wet and messy! ☺

Key Dates for this half term:

*Friday 19th November – Parents Coffee Morning An opportunity to come and share in our learning with us! Two adults per child.

Class Targets

- * to use tools such as scissors and glue with increasing control
- * to begin to ask and answer how and why questions
- * to get dressed and undressed independently

Wider Curriculum

This half term we will be using our key text 'Handa's Surprise' to make comparisons between where we live and other places around the world. We will be thinking about and comparing our houses with those in parts of Africa and exploring Africa culture, music and art. We will also be sharing what celebrations and customs are important to our families and thinking about how we celebrate! We will be looking at animals that live in the savannah and how these are very different from the wild animals where we live!

Christmas

Our Christmas celebrations may be a little different this year however later in the half term we will be engaging in lots of creative Christmas tasks to help us all get into the Christmas spirit! We will be spending some time learning about the Christmas story, enjoying lots of festive music and getting stuck into many different Christmas crafts – make way for lots of glitter!

Thank you for your continuing support at home.

Mrs Gates, Miss Daniels & Miss Moody