



Happy New Year!



Welcome back! We are looking forward to another exciting term in Year Two. Our main topic is a study of Kenya and comparing it to England. We will also be learning about different habitats. Remember, if you have any questions or need to contact us you can do so by email

miss.paul@greattotham.sch.co.uk or miss.goodsell@greattotham.sch.co.uk

English

Reading and spelling

Now the children have completed the Little Wandle phonics programme, they will move onto 5 spelling sessions a week. These will teach the children how to 'think about spelling'. They will be encouraged to segment the words so that they are using phonics as their main strategy for spelling. The children will be learning which graphemes to choose, and begin to look at some of the rules of spelling. Any reading at home will also help support your child with spelling. It will help them to become familiar with spelling patterns that they have looked at, and enable them to 'see' when words look correct and improve word recognition. The children will continue to read 3 times a week in school to develop fluency. One of the most important ways to help support your child is hearing them read regularly, reading to them and reading with them. The books they bring home on a Monday will have been chosen by them to share and enjoy with you.



Geography

This term the children will be learning about the locations of the equator, the seven continents and the five oceans. They will be comparing human and physical features of Nairobi and London. The children will also have the opportunity to compare their village to a Kenyan village.



Key dates

Parents evenings:

12th February 4.30—7.30

13th February 3.30—6.30

INSET—24th & 25th February

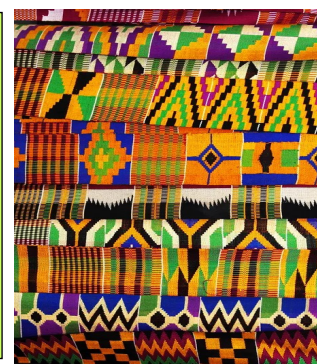
World Book Day—6th March



Art

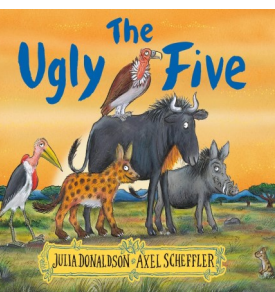
The children will be weaving with different coloured materials to create a design for an African basket. They will think about adding texture, colour and pattern within the weave.

We will also learn about the work of Gunta Stolzl who played an important role in the development of weaving.



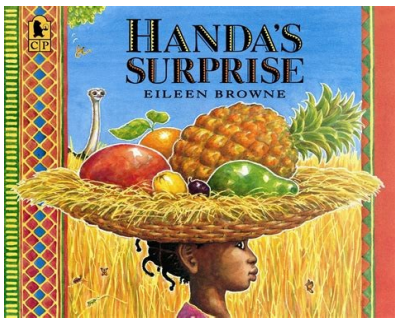
Writing

The key skills in writing this term are learning how to use commas, adjectives, adverbs and apostrophes. Children will extend their sentences using the conjunctions when, if, but and or. The books *Handa's Surprise*, *The Ugly Five* and *A Kenyan Child* are just some of the wonderful books we will use to inspire our writing.



Design & Technology

This term we will be making hand puppets based on the characters from Handa's Surprise. Hopefully we will use our puppets to tell the story later in the year. As part of the design process children will investigate the different ways they can join materials and they will have the opportunity to practise their sewing skills.



DT Cooking

The children will be learning how to use a bridge and claw grip when cutting. They will then use this skill to cut potatoes and make delicious wedges.

Computing

During our computing lessons the children will learn how to research information safely online. They will be using Google to find answers to specific questions about Kenya. They will also learn how to save, retrieve and edit a document.

Maths

The children will continue to improve their understanding of place value and consolidate calculation skills. They will practise counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. They will continue to learn the 5 and 10 times tables and related division facts to help them solve a variety of problems in different contexts. We will build on their knowledge of measure; revisiting mass, capacity and temperature. The units of measure the children will be encouraged to use will be kilograms, grams, litres, millilitres, degree and Celsius. They will also read different scales. The children will be revisiting money and using their knowledge to solve problems.



Lifeskills

This will focus on living in the wider world and why rules are important. The children will discuss ways to care for other living things in the environment.

Music

The children will listen to examples of African drumming and talk about the various rhythms. They will play the drums to repeat these and explore how to use the drums in different ways.



P.E.

This term our PE days will be on Monday and Tuesday.

Please ensure all kit is labelled with your child's name and is in line with the school uniform policy, which is available on the website. As the weather is colder, please remember that the children can wear a tracksuit for PE.

In outdoor P.E. the children will continue to develop co-ordination through a variety of games involving attacking, defending and scoring. Indoor PE is gymnastics and will involve the creation of sequences showcasing rolls and balances with smooth links.



Science

In the first half term the children will be learning about habitats in hot and cold places. They will also create simple food chains. Later, the children will be studying microhabitats, for example a pile of leaves or under a log.

R.E.

We will look at how Christians live their lives according to their belief in God and Jesus, and learn the Lord's prayer and its meaning. We will also look at the different ways they show commitment to the Christian faith.