

## Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Christmas seems a long time ago and we are now looking forwards to an exciting term filled with fun and some warmer weather!

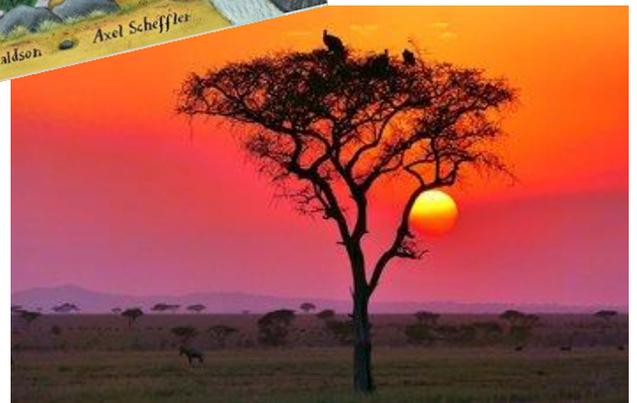
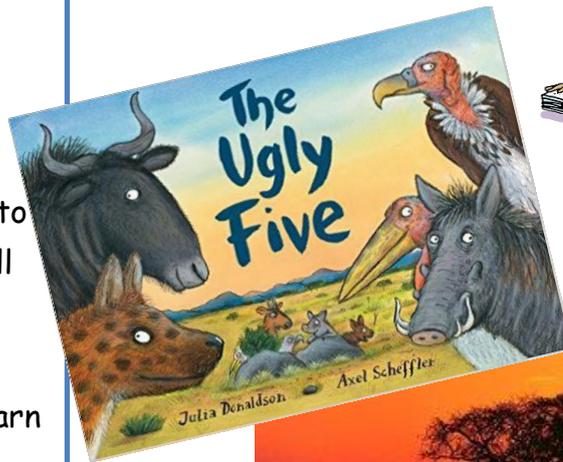
As a school our current focus is on reading. Reading is the building block for all learning and it is essential that children master the basic skills early and most importantly develop a love for books and reading. You may have noticed the start of a display and an area in the annexe specifically designed to develop this. We would love the children to bring in favourite books from home to share with others on this display, these can be stories read to them as well as books they read independently. There is much research that shows how beneficial reading aloud to and reading with your child is, sharing a story benefits us all in so many ways. I love this quote from Walt Disney, "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates loot on Treasure Island!" We will be encouraging the children to read more regularly at home and they will receive stickers when they have done this 3 times over a week.

### OUR BIG IDEA LEARNING

This term we start with a focus on 'Africa'. We are using a new book by Julia Donaldson called 'The Ugly Five' to inspire our writing and reading. We will base our topic, dance, music and art work around the theme of Africa and the children are already excited to learn more.

As well as looking at the animals found in Africa our science will focus on seasonal changes here in England.

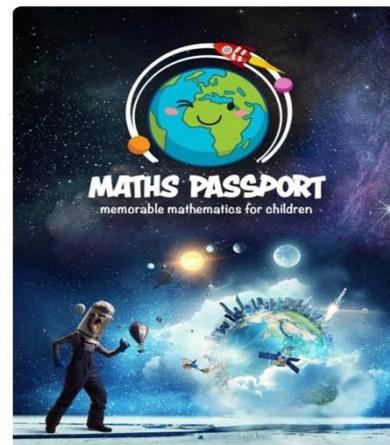
In ICT we will continue to Purple Mash to access a number of different uses for the computers. We will present information in different ways, create pictures and do some research. We will also be learning about how to stay safe online.



# YEAR 1/2 SPRING 2018

In maths we begin the year with a couple of topics, division and fractions and then we continue to learn about and explore shapes. We will end the term returning to calculations, particularly thinking about addition and subtraction.

The Maths Passports are proving to be really popular with the children and a really good way to engage them in learning these key skills.



One way to practice these skills is to play games such as Counting Tennis. This works for counting in different amounts as well as forwards and backwards. Take it in turns to say a number. You can time how long it takes you and then see if you can beat it next time.

You could also play a version of the Nim or '21' game where the aim is to get the other person to say the final number. Each person can count on between 1 and 3 numbers. For example counting to 12, player 1 says 1,2. Player 2 then says 3,4,5. Player 1 counts 6,7,8. Player 2 replies 9, 10,11 and so Player 1 has to say 12 and therefore player 2 wins.

A dice or pack of cards can be a really good way of generating a number to add to another number to help practice with number bonds. For example throw a number, then what number do I need to add to that to make 10. Or find pairs that make 10 or 12 within a pack of cards.

PE - Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Please bring your **NAMED** PE kit including a tracksuit or jumper and joggers as well as shorts and t-shirt on both these days.

Reading - daily

Please have your reading book and reading record in school everyday. We have some fab volunteers in school and try to hear as many individual readers as possible each day.

Clothing - LOST PROPERTY

We seem to have collected a lot of items over the half term. **PLEASE** could you label all clothing that comes to school, especially jumpers and cardigans. If you are missing anything please check the box in the cloakroom.

Any questions, please come in and see one us.

Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Thomas