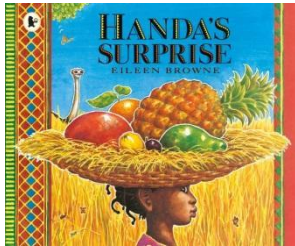


# Reception Newsletter

- Just to remind you that you will receive a newsletter every term. This will be available on the [website under our class page letters](#). Please check this page regularly as we will upload the texts we will be learning and photos of what we have achieved. (If you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the office know.)
- When we all return to school we will continue to do Forest School on a [Wednesday](#) for both classes. Please make sure they have old clothes and coat to change into as it is particularly muddy at this time of the year. We are continuing PE on [Mondays](#) and PE kit can remain in school.

Topic:



## Exploring Africa

Our topic this term is all about Africa and we will be learning the story of 'Handa's Surprise'.

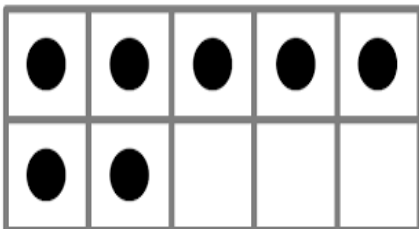
Driving Question this term: How can we compare our local area and lifestyle to that of a child in rural Kenya?

Focus Questions for this term:

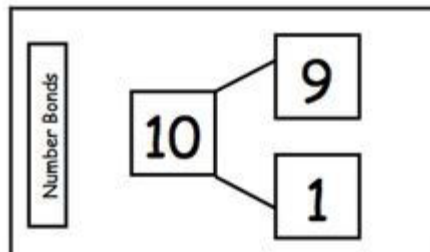
- Week 1 – How can I use my knowledge of the story to summarise?
- Week 2 - What are the similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries?
- Week 3 – What descriptive language can I use to explain what the animals look like?
- Week 4 – When I listen and move to music how does it make me feel?
- Week 5 - Why is it important to follow instructions when cooking?
- Week 6 - Can I create a pattern?

### Maths

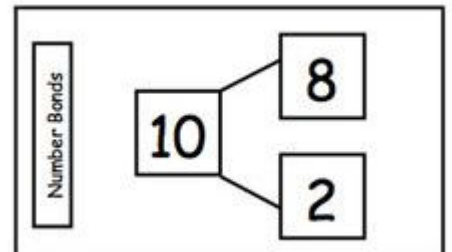
This term we will be continuing to use ten frames and the part-whole model to support the children with their number bonds to 10. These are useful to represent the different parts which combine to make the whole. Children will be encouraged to record their work using mathematical jottings.



An example of a ten frame.



An example of the part whole model



### Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be re-telling our class story and creating an African inspired performance piece. We will be making African animal masks and exploring African traditions, dances and music. We will be using our creative skills to explore different art techniques, tools and materials in our colourful designs and patterns.

### Physical Development

This term we will be focusing on how we create dances to different styles of music, thinking about how we move our bodies to different beats and rhythms. We will also be using the story of Handa's Surprise to represent the different movements for the wonderful animals that she encounters.

In addition, we will be looking at the effect exercise has on our bodies and different ways we can keep our bodies fit and healthy. We will also have a focus on using tools such as cutlery, to support fine motor skills. It would be great if the children could practise using cutlery at home too.

## **Understanding the World**

This term we are going to be finding out information about Africa. We will be looking specifically at the lifestyles of people who live in Kenya, including daily routines, clothes, homes, families, the environment and climate. We will then be comparing some aspects of Kenya to Banbury to celebrate the differences and similarities. Alongside our topic of Africa, we will also discuss the start of Ramadan, the celebration of Easter and signs in our garden that show Spring is on its way.



## **Communication and Language, Reading and Writing**

In our literacy lessons we will be learning a version of Handa's Surprise (see below). We will be exploring the characters in the story as well as looking at its structure (beginning, middle and end). We will be looking at the language that is used especially the adjectives used to describe the animals and fruit. Excitingly, the children will start to write some of the story and even create their own versions.

The children have worked very hard last term on their reading and writing which has been lovely to see. They are all enjoying being able to complete reading and writing challenges independently. This term we will be focusing on being able to hold a sentence in our head and write it using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop.

To bring some of the vocabulary to life we will be tasting some of the tropical fruits from story. **So please inform a member of staff if your has any, allergies that we are not already aware of.**

## **Home Learning - Take a look at these sites:**

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/r.aspx?sid=1820>
- [http://www.literactive.com/Download/live.asp?swf=story\\_files/hanging\\_monkeys\\_US.swf](http://www.literactive.com/Download/live.asp?swf=story_files/hanging_monkeys_US.swf)
- You may have noticed your child recently came home with a NUMBOTS login sheet. This is a great tool to support your child's maths skills in a fun way at home. If you have any questions about this please come and ask.

\*\* To support discussions at home, we title some Tapestry observations with 'Ask me about...' These will include some photos and text to act as prompts to ask your children about what they have been learning and taking part in at school that week. Feel free to write a comment to let us know what your children said if you feel comfortable with this. \*\*

## **Sound Books and Reading Books**

Homework books and reading books will continue to be brought in weekly on a **Thursday** and given back out on a Friday.

### **Dates for your diary:**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** – Term 4 begins for all pupils

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – PTFA special lady in your life market

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March** – Reception vision check

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Class photos & Reception Individual photos

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Reception Easter hat Parade and last day of Term 4

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** - Term 5 begins

### Class Story - Handa's Surprise

One hot sunny day there was a little girl called Handa who lived on the plains of Africa. She lived in a small tribal village with her family.

That morning, Handa put five delicious fruits into a basket on top of her head and set off for the next village. "My friend Akeyo will be surprised, I wonder which fruit she will like best?" thought Handa.

"Will she like the soft banana?" thought Handa. But a mischievous monkey took the banana.

"Will she like the round juicy orange?" thought Handa. But a sly zebra took the orange.

"Will she like the ripe mango?" wondered Handa. But an excited elephant took the mango.

"Will she like the prickly pineapple?" thought Handa. But a greedy giraffe took the mango.

"Will she like the purple passion fruit?" thought Handa. But the pesky parrot took the passion fruit

Unfortunately, Handa's basket was now empty.

All of a sudden an angry goat charged past Handa and into a huge tangerine tree. Luckily, hundreds of tangerines then tumbled down into Handa's basket.

Finally Handa arrived at Akeyo's village, "Hello Akeyo, I have a surprise for you!" said Handa.

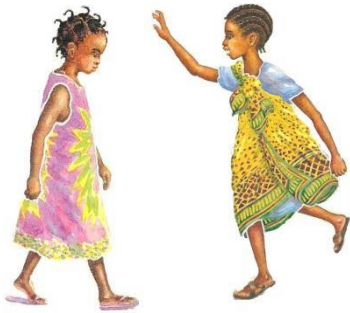
"Tangerines! They are my favourite fruit," said Akeyo.

"Tangerines? That is a surprise!" said Handa.

The end.

## Term 4 - Handa's Surprise.

### Vocabulary Sheet



Handa & Akeyo



Plains of Africa



Africa



Pesky Parrot



Basket



Greedy Giraffe





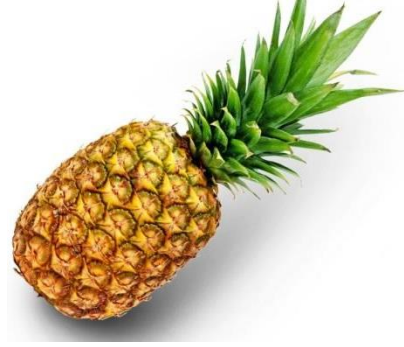
*Zebra*



*Mischievous Monkey*



*Excited Elephant*



*Prickly Pineapple*



*Ripe Mango*



*Purple Passion Fruit*



*Tangerine*



*Round Orange*