



Spring Newsletter

Year 3



Welcome back to the first half of the Spring Term. We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. We would like to thank you for the kind gifts, cards and Christmas wishes received at the end of Autumn Term. We are very lucky teachers!

Our topic focus for this term is all about our 'Extreme Earth'. We will investigate natural phenomena including volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes and typhoons and will look at the strategies people have developed to enable them to exist in volatile parts of our world. We will also look at how we can cope with extreme weather conditions in our little island which experiences gales, calms, droughts, heatwaves and snowstorms.

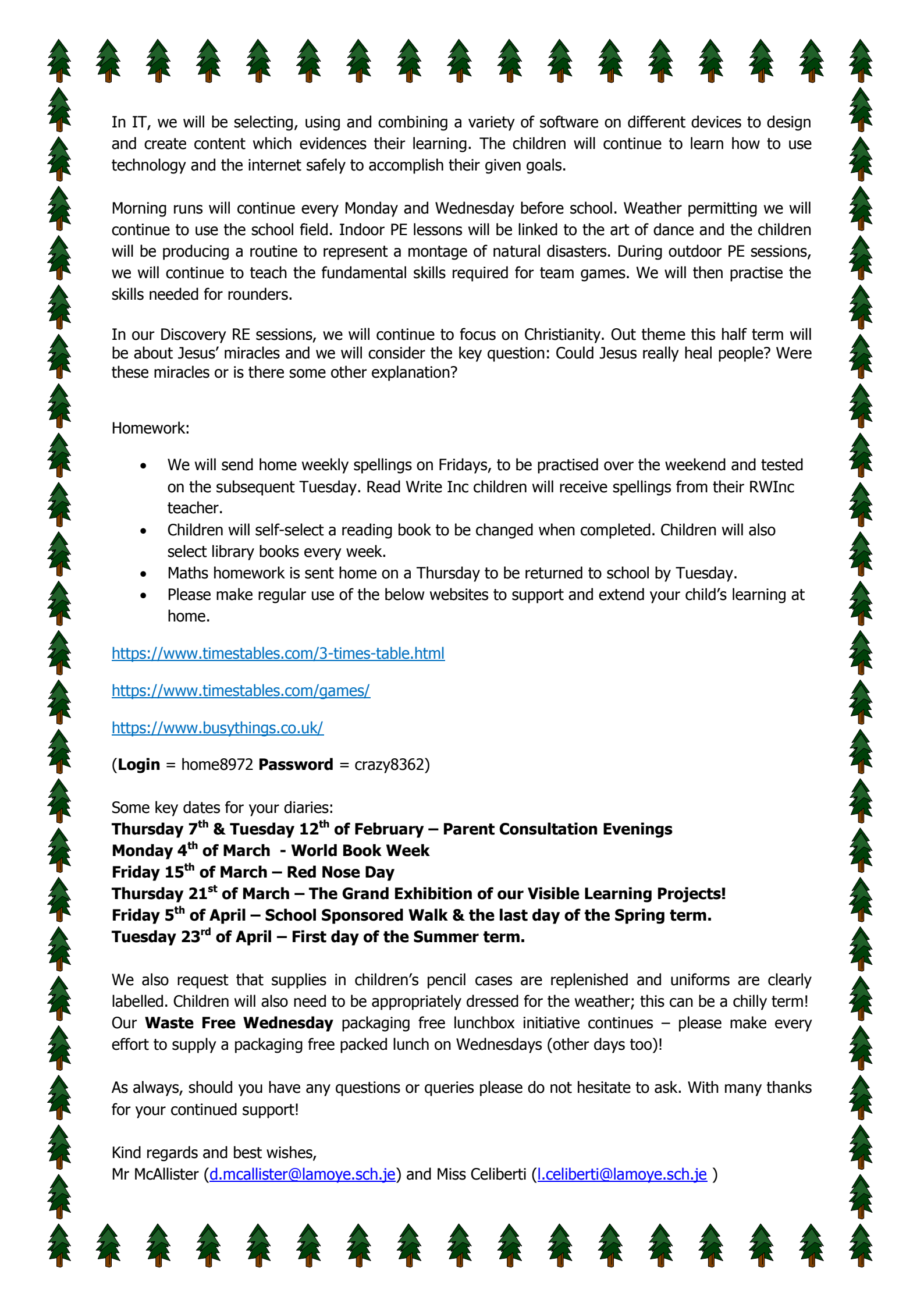
In English we will make links with our topic and will use Pompeii as the setting for dramatisations. Children will create simple play scripts around the theme of surviving a volcanic eruption. We will use 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit as our adventure book focus. We will also continue with our regular handwriting, spelling and grammar lessons.

In Maths this term we will be initially focussing on multiplication and division. We will develop our understanding through the use of objects and models, and will show this pictorially and using traditional number sentences. We will then move on to measuring length and mass using standard units. Throughout we will focus on developing the children's deep and secure understanding of key mathematical concepts.

The Personal, Social, Health and Emotion learning focus for this term is all about our dreams and goals for the New Year. We will identify our individual ambitions and any potential challenges that we may face, and how we can tackle these positively and with determination.

In Science this term we will complete our learning about animals including humans before moving onto light. This unit will teach the children about light, reflections and shadows. They will learn about different sources of light, and what we need to see. Children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate reflective materials and surfaces. We will be researching how we need light to see, and how our eyes react to low light and bright light situations. We will also identify how shadows are formed and how they change throughout the day. Children will then make model sundials before calibrating them and checking their accuracy.

Our main Art focus this term will be linked to a whole school project where we explore how to use feedback to help children make improvements to their learning, based on research on 'Visible Learning' by renowned educational researcher John Hattie. As part of this project all the children will be developing their drawing skills, based on the theme of 'fish'. They will be drafting and subsequently redrafting following feedback, with subsequent designs showing how feedback helped them to improve. The children will receive input from both staff and other children in their class, as research suggests this is a powerful way of enabling improvements to be made. Later in the term, we will be exploring the fish theme by working with local artists.



In IT, we will be selecting, using and combining a variety of software on different devices to design and create content which evidences their learning. The children will continue to learn how to use technology and the internet safely to accomplish their given goals.

Morning runs will continue every Monday and Wednesday before school. Weather permitting we will continue to use the school field. Indoor PE lessons will be linked to the art of dance and the children will be producing a routine to represent a montage of natural disasters. During outdoor PE sessions, we will continue to teach the fundamental skills required for team games. We will then practise the skills needed for rounders.

In our Discovery RE sessions, we will continue to focus on Christianity. Out theme this half term will be about Jesus' miracles and we will consider the key question: Could Jesus really heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other explanation?

Homework:

- We will send home weekly spellings on Fridays, to be practised over the weekend and tested on the subsequent Tuesday. Read Write Inc children will receive spellings from their RWInc teacher.
- Children will self-select a reading book to be changed when completed. Children will also select library books every week.
- Maths homework is sent home on a Thursday to be returned to school by Tuesday.
- Please make regular use of the below websites to support and extend your child's learning at home.

<https://www.timestables.com/3-times-table.html>

<https://www.timestables.com/games/>

<https://www.busythings.co.uk/>

(Login = home8972 Password = crazy8362)

Some key dates for your diaries:

Thursday 7th & Tuesday 12th of February – Parent Consultation Evenings

Monday 4th of March - World Book Week

Friday 15th of March – Red Nose Day

Thursday 21st of March – The Grand Exhibition of our Visible Learning Projects!

Friday 5th of April – School Sponsored Walk & the last day of the Spring term.

Tuesday 23rd of April – First day of the Summer term.

We also request that supplies in children's pencil cases are replenished and uniforms are clearly labelled. Children will also need to be appropriately dressed for the weather; this can be a chilly term! Our **Waste Free Wednesday** packaging free lunchbox initiative continues – please make every effort to supply a packaging free packed lunch on Wednesdays (other days too)!

As always, should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to ask. With many thanks for your continued support!

Kind regards and best wishes,

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