

Year 6

1st Half Spring Term 2019

Update



January, 2019

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a restful, relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. By now, all pupils should have settled back into the routines of school. Included below is some general information about the coming first half of the Spring Term.

Expectations:

High expectations in relation to all academic areas remain a school priority and we will continue to push to raise 'standards' and outcomes as well as continuing to make learning irresistible in all that the pupils do.

High standards of behaviour, appearance, attitude and responsibility, too, remain a school expectation. All pupils are in possession of a trust badge which gives them a KS2 identity but also serves to support our behaviour management programme and affords the pupils certain privileges throughout the school. These should be worn every day.

Classroom Climate:

We must stress that we aim to create a calm, pleasant and enjoyable learning environment for all pupils. In addition to this, we want to not only ensure that our students are educated academically, but to also ensure that they possess the necessary "life skills" that are so important: for example, cooperation, tolerance, support of others, a positive work ethic, taking a few risks to name but a few. We will also continue to promote the well-being of our students and try to ensure that they feel safe and happy, both in themselves, and with those around them. This supports all the work we do with our important core values and prepares them for secondary school.

Homework:

With regard to homework we expect Year 6 pupils to spend **at least 20/30 minutes** each evening to consolidate their learning and prepare them for Secondary school expectations. Homework will be set, Monday to Friday, in accordance with the following timetable, although we must stress that it is subject to flexibility from time to time. There is a slight change from last term where maths homework will have more of a focus on 'fluency' in the short term. Once again we request your support in ensuring that home work is completed, given in on time and follows our homework expectations, eg) correct spelling, dates and titles underlined with a ruler and neat presentation. May we remind you that reading homework should be a daily activity.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing (Due Wed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Maths (due Fri) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spellings and Spelling Sentences • Big Talk

All students have a homework diary and reading record which we ask you sign off each evening.

Equipment:

Can we please ask that all students have the necessary equipment for lessons, namely:

- A pencil case with the usual range of writing and recording materials, including an HB pencil, coloured pencils, a rubber, a sharpener, a 15 cm ruler, scissors, a glue stick and blue handwriting pen. A compass and protractor are also needed but the school is happy to provide these.

Healthy Lunches / Snacks:

We try to be a healthy school and as such please can you ensure that your child has a balanced lunchbox and an appropriate healthy snack for the morning. This should be either a fresh piece of fruit or some vegetables. May we add that a lunchbox full of sweets, crisps and chocolate bars is not a healthy option, nor does it help with concentration.

Curriculum Updates

With regard to academic studies, much work has gone into planning the curriculum in order that all pupils receive access to the appropriate curriculum. Curriculum information below will hopefully give an overview of the learning taking place throughout the half term.

English:

During this half term we will be focussing on the following:

Reading:

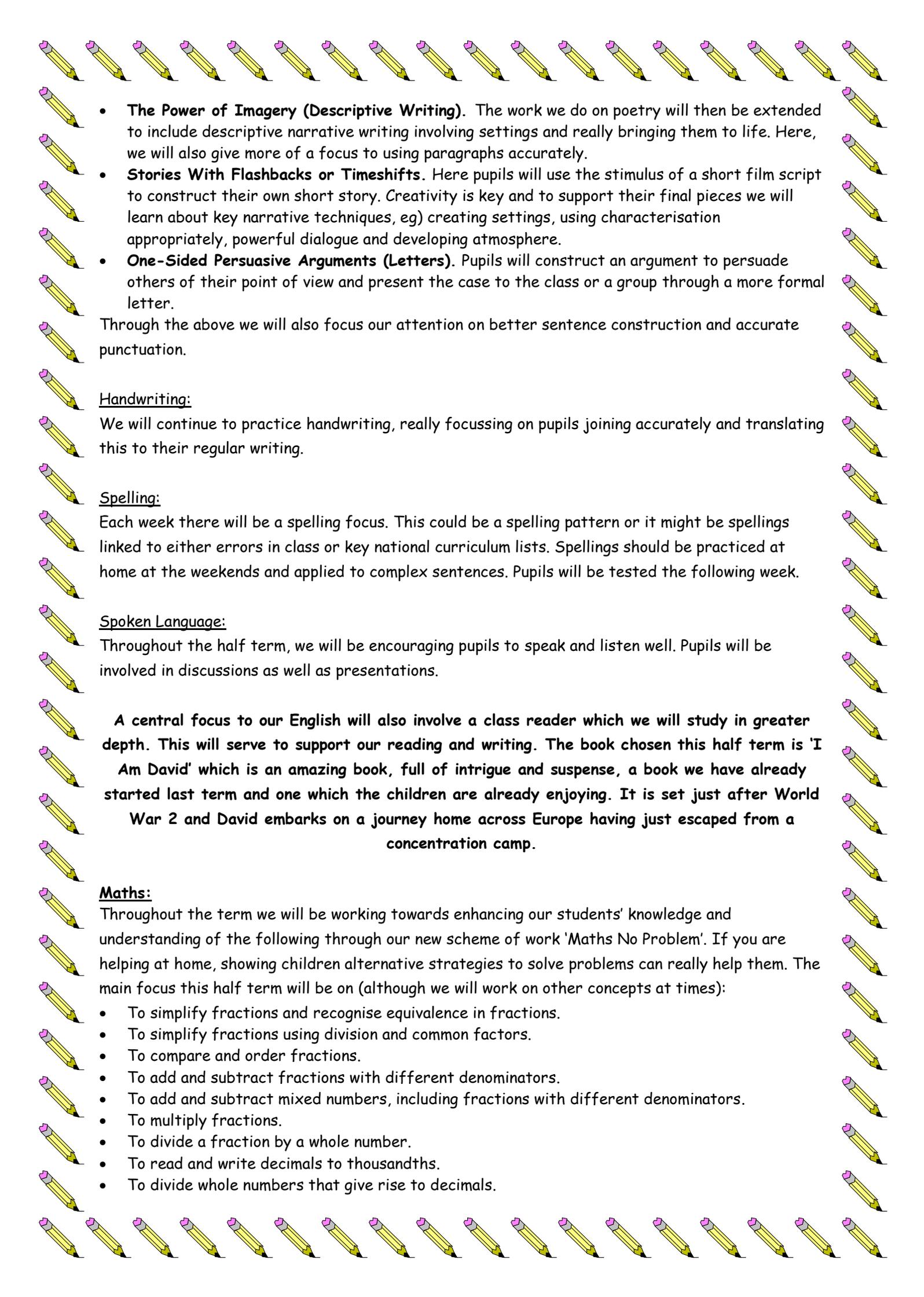
During the course of the Spring Term, we will be reading both fiction and non-fiction texts and accurately retrieving information. All involve both written and verbal responses where children will have to answer literal as well as inferential and deductive questions, providing detail to their responses. Most important is supporting your child's reading as much as possible by hearing them read and by sharing and enjoying books together. Please ensure that your children are reading for at least 10-15 minutes daily at home, preferable aloud to you on some occasions. This can be done at any time (during breakfast for example) and will greatly help with progression at school. We will also continue to develop the skills of predicting, summarising, questioning and clarifying.

Author Of The Term:

This will be Anne Holm and her book 'I Am David', a book we have already started last term.

Writing:

We hope to really develop the children's writing this half term through several interesting and enjoyable units, namely:

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- **The Power of Imagery (Descriptive Writing).** The work we do on poetry will then be extended to include descriptive narrative writing involving settings and really bringing them to life. Here, we will also give more of a focus to using paragraphs accurately.
 - **Stories With Flashbacks or Timeshifts.** Here pupils will use the stimulus of a short film script to construct their own short story. Creativity is key and to support their final pieces we will learn about key narrative techniques, eg) creating settings, using characterisation appropriately, powerful dialogue and developing atmosphere.
 - **One-Sided Persuasive Arguments (Letters).** Pupils will construct an argument to persuade others of their point of view and present the case to the class or a group through a more formal letter.

Through the above we will also focus our attention on better sentence construction and accurate punctuation.

Handwriting:

We will continue to practice handwriting, really focussing on pupils joining accurately and translating this to their regular writing.

Spelling:

Each week there will be a spelling focus. This could be a spelling pattern or it might be spellings linked to either errors in class or key national curriculum lists. Spellings should be practiced at home at the weekends and applied to complex sentences. Pupils will be tested the following week.

Spoken Language:

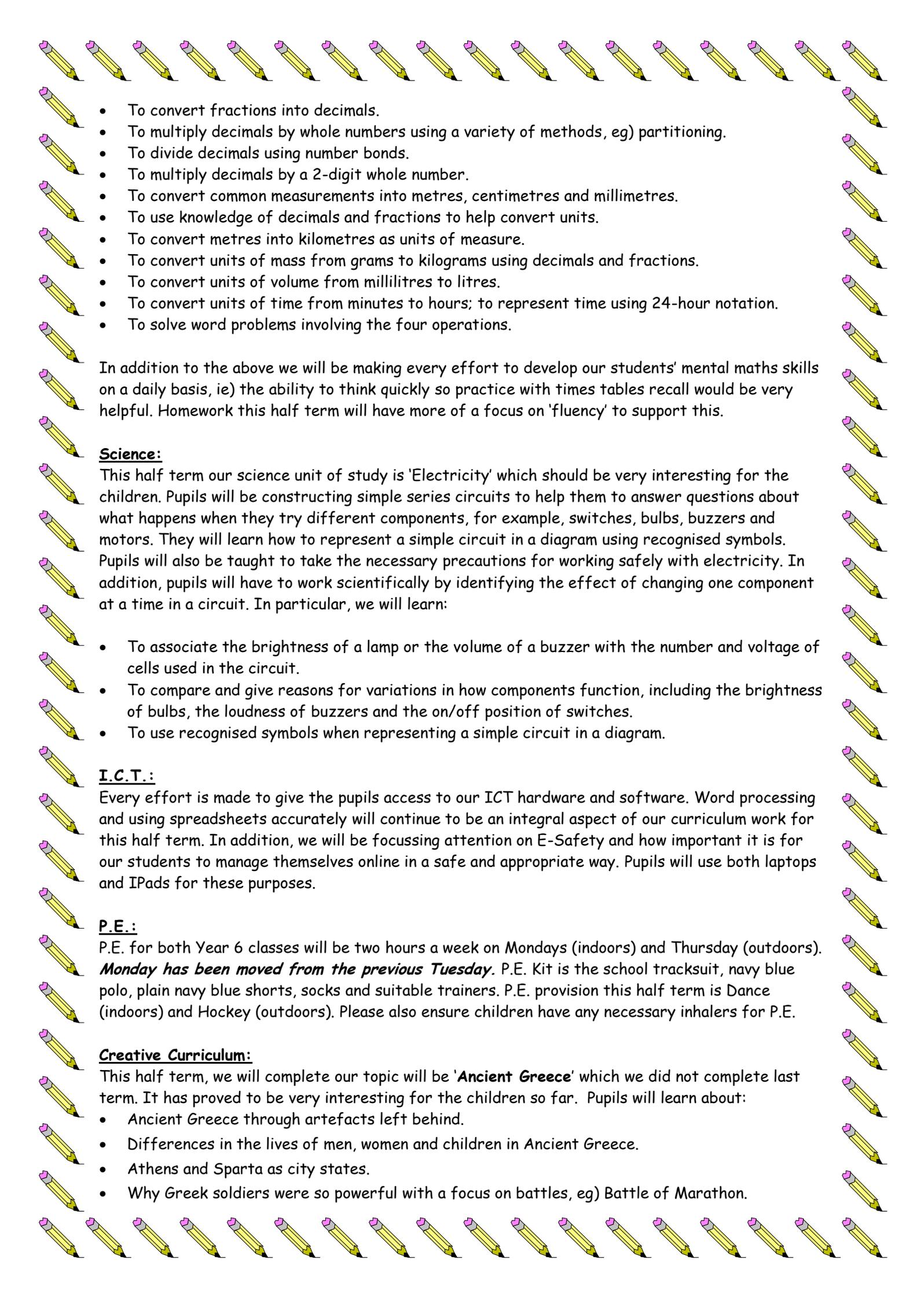
Throughout the half term, we will be encouraging pupils to speak and listen well. Pupils will be involved in discussions as well as presentations.

A central focus to our English will also involve a class reader which we will study in greater depth. This will serve to support our reading and writing. The book chosen this half term is 'I Am David' which is an amazing book, full of intrigue and suspense, a book we have already started last term and one which the children are already enjoying. It is set just after World War 2 and David embarks on a journey home across Europe having just escaped from a concentration camp.

Maths:

Throughout the term we will be working towards enhancing our students' knowledge and understanding of the following through our new scheme of work 'Maths No Problem'. If you are helping at home, showing children alternative strategies to solve problems can really help them. The main focus this half term will be on (although we will work on other concepts at times):

- To simplify fractions and recognise equivalence in fractions.
- To simplify fractions using division and common factors.
- To compare and order fractions.
- To add and subtract fractions with different denominators.
- To add and subtract mixed numbers, including fractions with different denominators.
- To multiply fractions.
- To divide a fraction by a whole number.
- To read and write decimals to thousandths.
- To divide whole numbers that give rise to decimals.

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- To convert fractions into decimals.
 - To multiply decimals by whole numbers using a variety of methods, eg) partitioning.
 - To divide decimals using number bonds.
 - To multiply decimals by a 2-digit whole number.
 - To convert common measurements into metres, centimetres and millimetres.
 - To use knowledge of decimals and fractions to help convert units.
 - To convert metres into kilometres as units of measure.
 - To convert units of mass from grams to kilograms using decimals and fractions.
 - To convert units of volume from millilitres to litres.
 - To convert units of time from minutes to hours; to represent time using 24-hour notation.
 - To solve word problems involving the four operations.

In addition to the above we will be making every effort to develop our students' mental maths skills on a daily basis, ie) the ability to think quickly so practice with times tables recall would be very helpful. Homework this half term will have more of a focus on 'fluency' to support this.

Science:

This half term our science unit of study is 'Electricity' which should be very interesting for the children. Pupils will be constructing simple series circuits to help them to answer questions about what happens when they try different components, for example, switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors. They will learn how to represent a simple circuit in a diagram using recognised symbols. Pupils will also be taught to take the necessary precautions for working safely with electricity. In addition, pupils will have to work scientifically by identifying the effect of changing one component at a time in a circuit. In particular, we will learn:

- To associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit.
- To compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches.
- To use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

I.C.T.:

Every effort is made to give the pupils access to our ICT hardware and software. Word processing and using spreadsheets accurately will continue to be an integral aspect of our curriculum work for this half term. In addition, we will be focussing attention on E-Safety and how important it is for our students to manage themselves online in a safe and appropriate way. Pupils will use both laptops and iPads for these purposes.

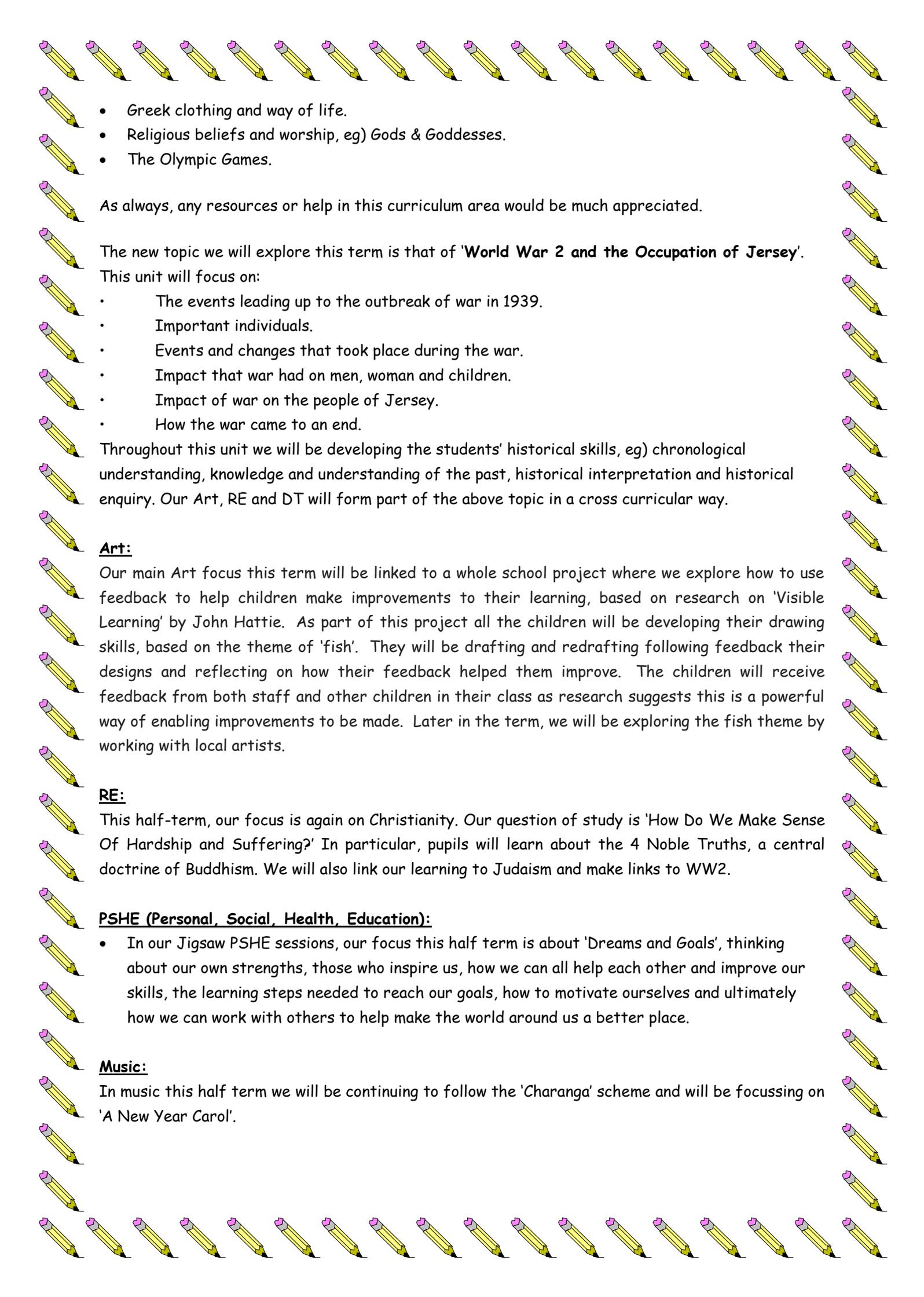
P.E.:

P.E. for both Year 6 classes will be two hours a week on Mondays (indoors) and Thursday (outdoors). ***Monday has been moved from the previous Tuesday.*** P.E. Kit is the school tracksuit, navy blue polo, plain navy blue shorts, socks and suitable trainers. P.E. provision this half term is Dance (indoors) and Hockey (outdoors). Please also ensure children have any necessary inhalers for P.E.

Creative Curriculum:

This half term, we will complete our topic will be 'Ancient Greece' which we did not complete last term. It has proved to be very interesting for the children so far. Pupils will learn about:

- Ancient Greece through artefacts left behind.
- Differences in the lives of men, women and children in Ancient Greece.
- Athens and Sparta as city states.
- Why Greek soldiers were so powerful with a focus on battles, eg) Battle of Marathon.

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- Greek clothing and way of life.
 - Religious beliefs and worship, eg) Gods & Goddesses.
 - The Olympic Games.

As always, any resources or help in this curriculum area would be much appreciated.

The new topic we will explore this term is that of **'World War 2 and the Occupation of Jersey'**.

This unit will focus on:

- The events leading up to the outbreak of war in 1939.
- Important individuals.
- Events and changes that took place during the war.
- Impact that war had on men, woman and children.
- Impact of war on the people of Jersey.
- How the war came to an end.

Throughout this unit we will be developing the students' historical skills, eg) chronological understanding, knowledge and understanding of the past, historical interpretation and historical enquiry. Our Art, RE and DT will form part of the above topic in a cross curricular way.

Art:

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 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 redrafting following feedback their designs and reflecting on how their feedback helped them improve. The children will receive feedback 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.

RE:

This half-term, our focus is again on Christianity. Our question of study is 'How Do We Make Sense Of Hardship and Suffering?' In particular, pupils will learn about the 4 Noble Truths, a central doctrine of Buddhism. We will also link our learning to Judaism and make links to WW2.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Education):

- In our Jigsaw PSHE sessions, our focus this half term is about 'Dreams and Goals', thinking about our own strengths, those who inspire us, how we can all help each other and improve our skills, the learning steps needed to reach our goals, how to motivate ourselves and ultimately how we can work with others to help make the world around us a better place.

Music:

In music this half term we will be continuing to follow the 'Charanga' scheme and will be focussing on 'A New Year Carol'.



French:

We welcome back Mrs Surcouf who will resume French with the children and build on the evident progress the children have made so far this year.

Useful Websites:

Literacy

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f>

<http://www.funenglishgames.com/>

Maths

<https://nrich.maths.org/>

<http://mathszone.co.uk/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy>.

https://www.mathplayground.com/quick_calculate.html

All subjects

<https://www.busythings.co.uk/> (Login = home8972 Password = crazy8362)

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk>

Diary Dates:

Thursday 7 th February	Parental Consultations
Tuesday 12 th February	Parental Consultations

Parental Help:

We are as ever, very reliant on your support both at home and in school. If you would like to offer your valuable support in class or on school trips, please let us know.

Finally:

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, do please get in touch. Our contact details are identified below.

Many thanks,

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Mr Murphy (d.murphy@lamoye.sch.je)