



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Year 6: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Spring 2, February 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term- we are looking forward to another busy and productive six weeks!

National Secondary School Offer Day is coming up on 2nd March. Please may I ask that both parents and children are thoughtful at this time and are indeed sensitive to news on secondary school places - the reality is that some children will not get their preferred school and might feel disappointed. I am sure the St. Mary's supportive ethos and community spirit will be evident at this emotional time.

Remember it is your child's last year at primary school and we want all of our Y6 children to enthusiastically participate in school events and build on their friendships and memories of their time at St. Mary's. As always we are here to support your child with transition to secondary school and the Summer Term is the perfect time for this, but until then it is important for Y6 to focus on the school's curriculum and the preparation required for the Key Stage 2 National Tests (SATs) later on in May.

The Curriculum

Below is an outline of the Year 6 curriculum for this half term:

English A busy mixture of revising and extending each child's grammar and punctuation skills, understanding texts through comprehension skills and continuing to develop writing skills in a range of styles will make up our English lessons this half-term. This will all be done with a directed eye towards SATs expectations.

The class will link the majority of their written work with our **Power of Reading** text - 'Pax' by Sara Pennypacker.

The overall learning aims of this teaching sequence are:

To engage children with a story with which they will empathise

To enjoy an exciting story with memorable characters

To draw inferences about characters feeling, thoughts and motives from their actions

To explore themes and issues and develop and sustain ideas through discussion

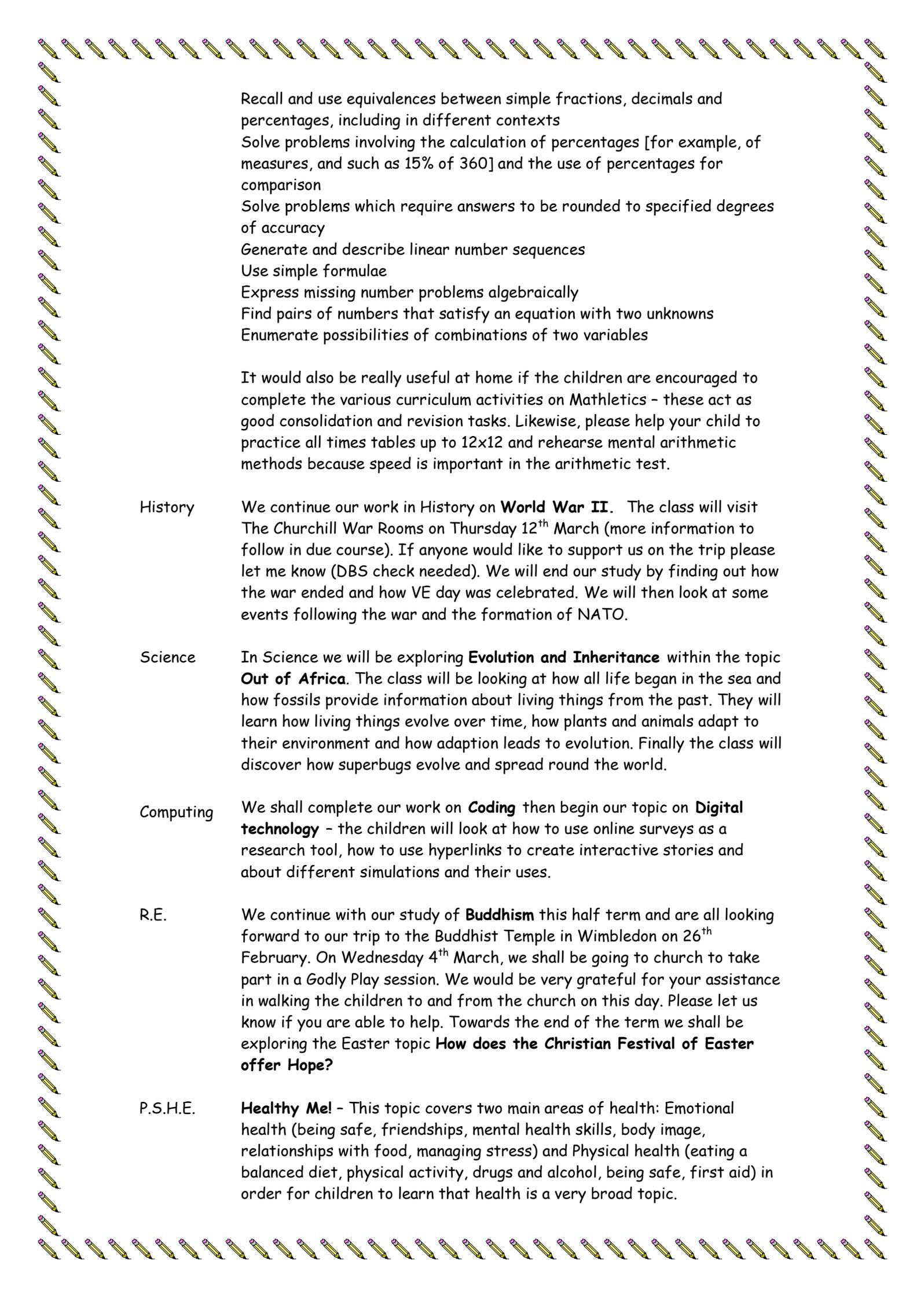
To write in role in order to explore and develop empathy for characters

To write with confidence with real purposes and audiences

To appreciate a range of narrative structures

Spelling tests will continue to be held on Friday - the words selected are all from previous SATs tests so please ensure meanings of words are learnt as well as the spellings!

Maths In maths the children will be focusing on Fractions including decimals and percentages and Algebra. We will be covering the following areas:



Recall and use equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts
Solve problems involving the calculation of percentages [for example, of measures, and such as 15% of 360] and the use of percentages for comparison
Solve problems which require answers to be rounded to specified degrees of accuracy
Generate and describe linear number sequences
Use simple formulae
Express missing number problems algebraically
Find pairs of numbers that satisfy an equation with two unknowns
Enumerate possibilities of combinations of two variables

It would also be really useful at home if the children are encouraged to complete the various curriculum activities on **Mathletics** - these act as good consolidation and revision tasks. Likewise, please help your child to practice all times tables up to 12x12 and rehearse mental arithmetic methods because speed is important in the arithmetic test.

History We continue our work in History on **World War II**. The class will visit The Churchill War Rooms on Thursday 12th March (more information to follow in due course). If anyone would like to support us on the trip please let me know (DBS check needed). We will end our study by finding out how the war ended and how VE day was celebrated. We will then look at some events following the war and the formation of NATO.

Science In Science we will be exploring **Evolution and Inheritance** within the topic **Out of Africa**. The class will be looking at how all life began in the sea and how fossils provide information about living things from the past. They will learn how living things evolve over time, how plants and animals adapt to their environment and how adaptation leads to evolution. Finally the class will discover how superbugs evolve and spread round the world.

Computing We shall complete our work on **Coding** then begin our topic on **Digital technology** - the children will look at how to use online surveys as a research tool, how to use hyperlinks to create interactive stories and about different simulations and their uses.

R.E. We continue with our study of **Buddhism** this half term and are all looking forward to our trip to the Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon on 26th February. On Wednesday 4th March, we shall be going to church to take part in a Godly Play session. We would be very grateful for your assistance in walking the children to and from the church on this day. Please let us know if you are able to help. Towards the end of the term we shall be exploring the Easter topic **How does the Christian Festival of Easter offer Hope?**

P.S.H.E. **Healthy Me!** - This topic covers two main areas of health: Emotional health (being safe, friendships, mental health skills, body image, relationships with food, managing stress) and Physical health (eating a balanced diet, physical activity, drugs and alcohol, being safe, first aid) in order for children to learn that health is a very broad topic.

French	Madame Baig will continue to deliver specialist teaching of French every Wednesday.
Art & Design	Mrs Adams will provide specialist teaching of art and design lessons. Year 6 will develop their printing skills. They will use pattern and texture to create a multi coloured animal head print.
Music	Mrs Le Prevost will teach specialist music lessons. In Year 6 this half term we will be completing our WWII song-writing project. We will be recording our group compositions and evaluating them to see what we thought went really well and where we could improve our work for next time.
P.E.	This half term Yr6 shall start Handball with Mr Naughton. Here they shall learn to pass, send and receive effectively, movement in and out of space, defending techniques and then small sided games which shall then grow into competitive matches. Within these sessions, the children shall be encouraged to think tactically about their game play.

PE LESSONS FOR YEAR 6 WILL TAKE PLACE TWICE A WEEK - EVERY MONDAY MORNING AND EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT AND TRAINERS FOR OUTDOORS ARE IN SCHOOL ON THESE DAYS AND LABELLED CLEARLY.

Home Learning

In Year 6 all children will usually be given three sets of main home learning to complete each week. We advise our children to spend no more than 40 minutes on each piece of main home learning and to let us know whether they found it too complicated or too easy at the end of the assignment. We expect all of our Year 6 children to complete their home learning independently but it would be beneficial for them to have it checked over for accurate punctuation, accurate calculations and neatness before it is handed in. Please comment if you have had to help significantly.

Home learning is structured as followed:

Friday: English, Maths and Topic - all due in on the following Wednesday.

The children will continue to need support in organising and managing how they will complete their 3 pieces of home learning over the course of the week.

In addition to the main home learning Year 6 pupils will also be expected to conduct these:

- 1) Spellings - need to be learnt weekly, set every Monday for a test on Friday.
- 2) Times Tables - need to be rehearsed regularly for a test on Friday.
- 3) Mental Arithmetic - need to practise regularly for a test on Monday.
- 4) Guided Reading - tasks will be set on a designated day for completion **at home** and handed in for the following week's session with the teacher.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 26th February Y6 Trip to Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon

Friday 28th February - DT Day - Textiles

Monday 2nd March - National Offer Day for Secondary Schools

Wednesday 4th March - Godly Play at St Mary's Church

Friday 6th March - World Book Day

Friday 12^h March Y6 Trip to Churchill War Rooms



Friday 20th March - Mother's Day Service at St. Mary's Church
Tuesday 24th March - Spring Concert
Wednesday 25th/ Thursday 26th March - Progress in Learning Meetings (Parents Evenings)
Thursday 26th March - Magistrates in School - Y6 Workshop
Thursday 2nd April at 2.30 pm - Exit Point - All Parents/Carers Welcome - Open Classroom
Friday 3rd April at 2.30pm - End of Spring Term
Monday 20th April - Start of Summer Term

Communication

If you have any queries about the daily routine or what your child is learning, or perhaps to inform us of other matters relating to your child, then do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Year 6 team. As always the best way to do this is through the use of your child's PACT. The PACT e-mail is a great tool for communication between home and school, so please do not hesitate in using it. The address is:

class6@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk

Keep in the loop with social media

The school is now actively using two social media platforms to communicate school news and events, so please check them out and follow us:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/PutneySMPS>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PutneySMPS/>

Kindest regards,

Mrs Bishop
Mrs Thomas
Mrs Miles