

# Robin Class



Dear Year 2 Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing Summer holiday with family and friends.

It is lovely to see the children return so refreshed and enthusiastic to learn. I am really pleased how they are settling back into routines and enjoying having new responsibilities now they are in Year 2.

We had a fantastic day at @Bristol yesterday to launch our whole school topic on 'How things work'. It was great to see the awe and wonder on the children's faces as they explored the exhibits. Our topic work will be focusing on aviation. We will be finding out about different inventors from the past, including: Leonardo da Vinci and his parachute; the Wright Brothers and their aeroplane; and the Montgolfier Brothers and their hot air balloon. We will also try to become inventors ourselves. Be assured I won't make them be test pilots!

In English we will be using our topic to inspire writing, focusing on stories, instructions, diary entries, poems and explanation texts. We will be developing our use of punctuation, securing the use of capital letters and full stops, introducing apostrophes for contracted forms (e.g. don't, I'm) and singular possession (e.g. Ben's house, Jill's bike). I will send a further letter outlining the spellings we will be learning in letters and sounds each week (supporting activities on TES Phonics website). The children will have their end of term test on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October**.

I would also like to focus on improving our continuous cursive handwriting (<http://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/>) through a range of activities. In reading, we will continue with the 'Time 4 Reading' challenge. Through your support children are not only making great progress but they are also happy and engaged readers who can apply their skills across all subjects. I will continue to change reading books as often as I can in order to help the children achieve their reading goals this term. Our class group reading will continue weekly with a focus on comprehension and response. Children will be asked to answer questions about information directly written in texts but also by inferring information. I aim to get children to read a range of texts, thinking about non-fiction and poetry as well as stories. All of this will help children prepare for their SATs tests at the end of Year 2.

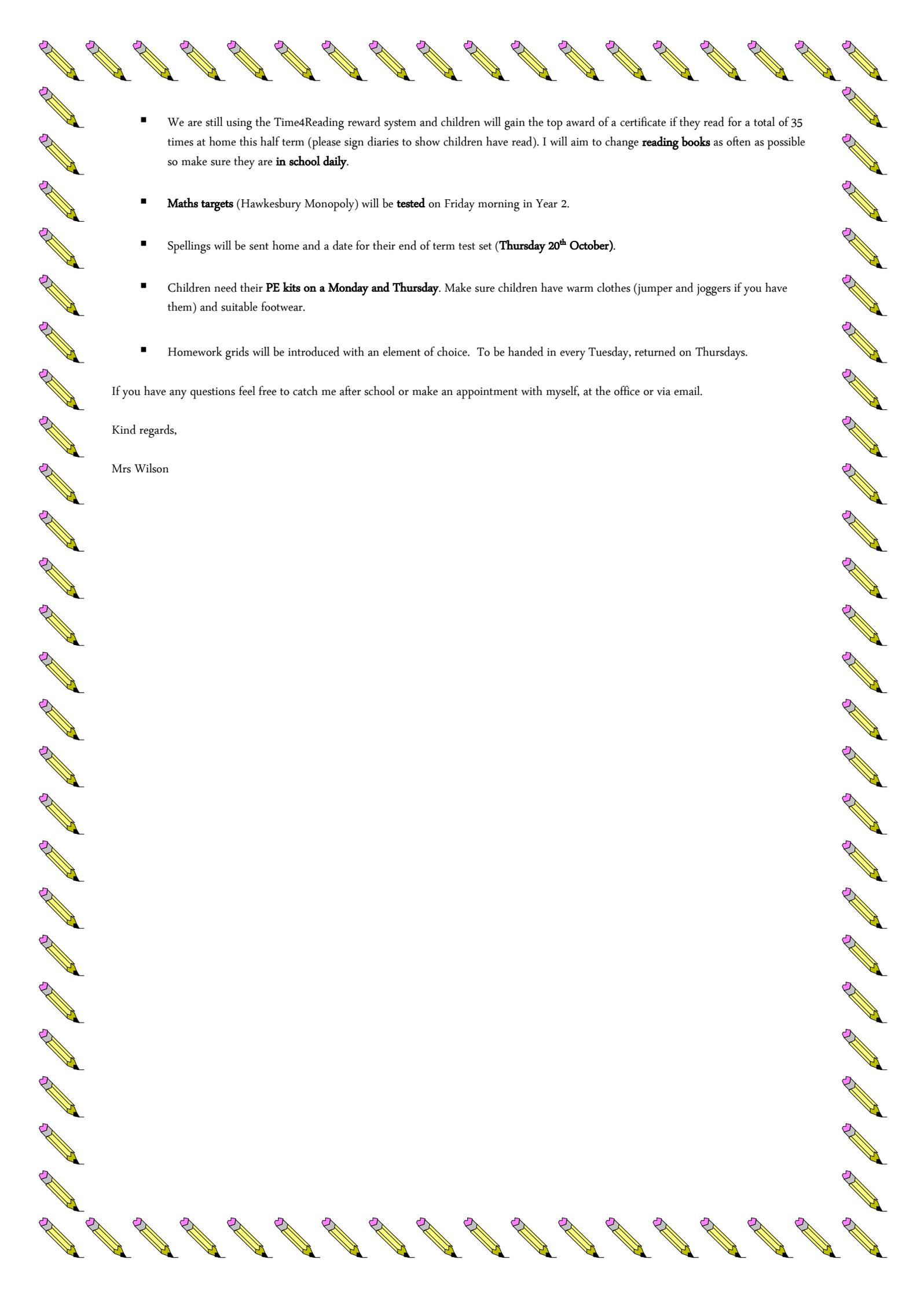
In Maths we will work on all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on place value, counting in steps of 2, 3, or 5, recalling addition and subtraction facts to 20, and solve addition and subtraction facts to 100. We will continue to work weekly on Hawkesbury Monopoly maths targets, which help develop mental strategies for calculations such as number bonds and times tables. More information about further levels in Hawkesbury Monopoly will be coming out to parents soon, but Year 2s will complete weekly target tests on **Friday morning** to check their progress and move them on. I aim to get children to challenge their knowledge through problem solving and questioning, and it is very important that they become confident in using maths in a range of contexts. We will be completing many calculations in the context of time, money and measure, so any practical work you can do on these at home will greatly support children's learning in class.

At the beginning of October the children will start to use Mathletics as part of their Maths learning program at school. **Mathletics** is the world's most used education website! It is the next generation in learning, helping students enjoy maths and improve results. This means that the children will also have take-home access to Mathletics. We will be providing you with more information and your child's log on details later this term.

This term **Mr Bryant** will be taking the children for **PE and RE on a Thursday** afternoon whilst I have PPA time. In PE children are going to be focusing on games and developing the skills needed to play a variety of sports. These lessons will be outside depending on the weather so please provide your child with suitable PE kit. The children will also be doing PE on a Monday, again this may take place outside. In RE children are going to be studying the Creation Story and then the Christmas Story **Mrs Tilsley** will be taking children for **Science every other Wednesday** where they will be experimenting with materials and their uses.

We will be introducing a new whole school homework grid in the near future. This will have a range of homework, specific to each class, which the children can choose from. Robin class will be expected to hand a piece of homework in every Tuesday and will be returned to them on Thursday. More information and the grid will be sent home shortly.

**Things to remember this term:**

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- We are still using the Time4Reading reward system and children will gain the top award of a certificate if they read for a total of 35 times at home this half term (please sign diaries to show children have read). I will aim to change **reading books** as often as possible so make sure they are **in school daily**.
  - **Maths targets** (Hawkesbury Monopoly) will be **tested** on Friday morning in Year 2.
  - Spellings will be sent home and a date for their end of term test set (**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October**).
  - Children need their **PE kits on a Monday and Thursday**. Make sure children have warm clothes (jumper and joggers if you have them) and suitable footwear.
  - Homework grids will be introduced with an element of choice. To be handed in every Tuesday, returned on Thursdays.

If you have any questions feel free to catch me after school or make an appointment with myself, at the office or via email.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wilson