



# Robin Class



Dear Year 1 parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back. I hope you have had a nice Christmas break and a lovely new year. Thank you for all your support during the last term especially with the Christmas performance. It was a great success and we are very proud of them. Thank you also for the kind cards and gifts I received last term.

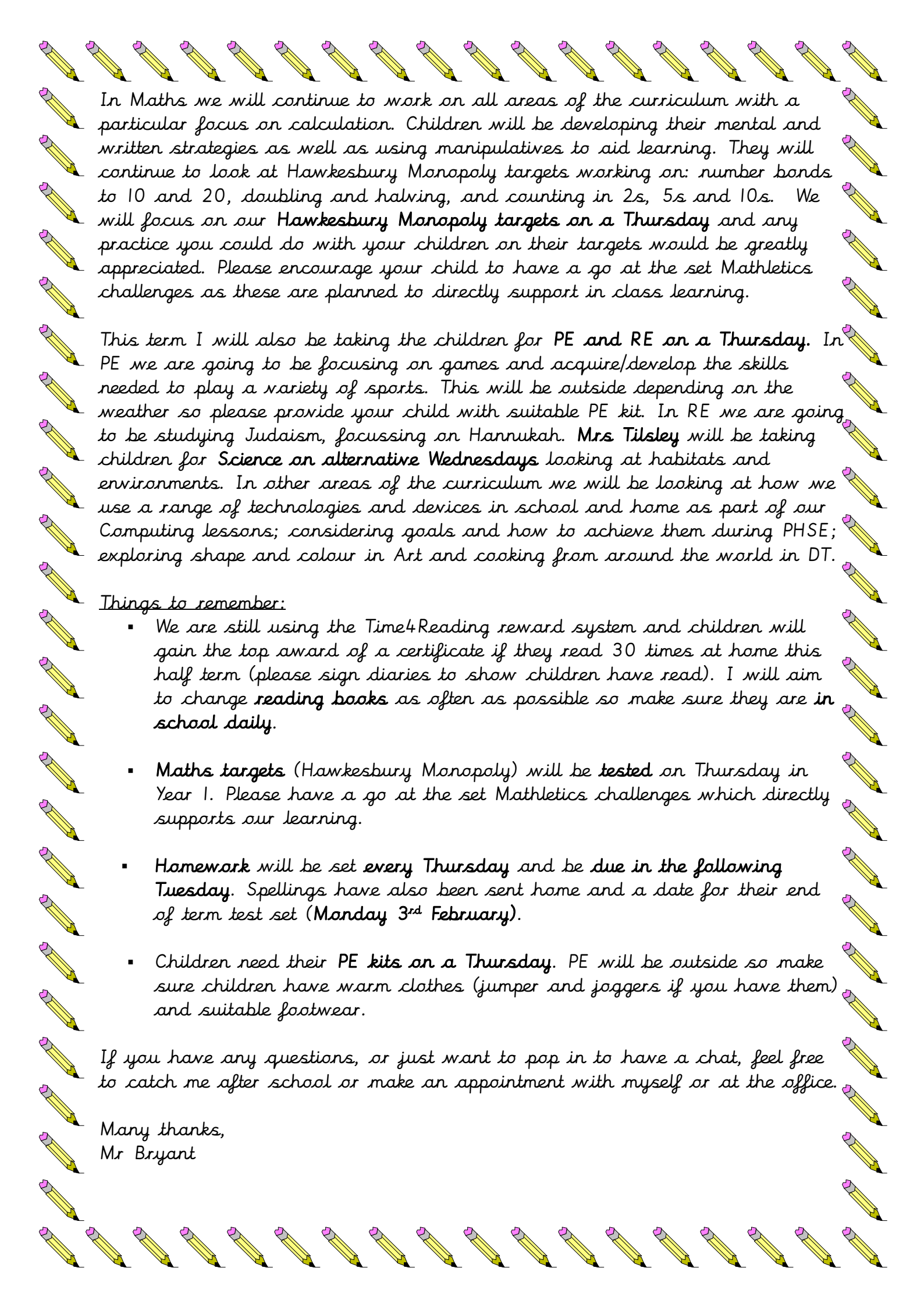
This term we have already hit the ground running. We have begun our whole school topic "A Wonderful World". Robin Class will look specifically at Rainforests and then at hot and cold areas of our world. We had a fabulous time visiting Bristol Zoo last Friday, finding out about Rainforests in a workshop. The baby gorilla was definitely a favourite! Both members of the public and Amy, our Zoo Education Officer were very complimentary about the behaviour and knowledge of the children - well done all, we are very proud of you!

In Literacy we will be using our topic to inspire writing, focusing on instructions, recounts and thank you letters. We will be focusing on using the correct tense and extending our writing using connectives, as well as considering the features of each text type we study. We will read and explore a range of texts related to our topic focusing on "Just So" stories to develop our own narratives. As always we will aim to be improving our continuous cursive handwriting through a range of activities.

(<http://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/>)

We will continue with our group reading, focusing on responding to what we have read. There will be a focus on revisiting the text to draw out information whilst developing our confidence with reading. The children are regularly winning Dojos, prizes and certificates for reading at home. 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.

I was pleased with last term's spelling results and will continue to work on this. Spelling lists have been distributed and children will be sitting a baseline text this week so that progress through the term can be recorded. The children have a focussed phonics lesson each day. During the lesson they learn and apply the spelling rules included in their spelling list. **They will sit this terms spelling test on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.** This is fantastic preparation for the Year 1 phonics test the children will take later during the year. We will meet before this so that I may explain the test but the children will be well prepared.



In Maths we will continue to work on all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on calculation. Children will be developing their mental and written strategies as well as using manipulatives to aid learning. They will continue to look at Hawkesbury Monopoly targets working on: number bonds to 10 and 20, doubling and halving, and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We will focus on our **Hawkesbury Monopoly targets on a Thursday** and any practice you could do with your children on their targets would be greatly appreciated. Please encourage your child to have a go at the set Mathematics challenges as these are planned to directly support in class learning.

This term I will also be taking the children for **PE and RE on a Thursday**. In PE we are going to be focusing on games and acquire/develop the skills needed to play a variety of sports. This will be outside depending on the weather so please provide your child with suitable PE kit. In RE we are going to be studying Judaism, focussing on Hannukah. Mrs Tilsley will be taking children for **Science on alternative Wednesdays** looking at habitats and environments. In other areas of the curriculum we will be looking at how we use a range of technologies and devices in school and home as part of our Computing lessons; considering goals and how to achieve them during PHSE; exploring shape and colour in Art and cooking from around the world in DT.

Things to remember:

- We are still using the Time4Reading reward system and children will gain the top award of a certificate if they read 30 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 Thursday in Year 1. Please have a go at the set Mathematics challenges which directly supports our learning.
- **Homework** will be set **every Thursday** and be **due in the following Tuesday**. Spellings have also been sent home and a date for their end of term test set (**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**).
- Children need their **PE kits on a Thursday**. PE will be outside so make sure children have warm clothes (jumper and joggers if you have them) and suitable footwear.

If you have any questions, or just want to pop in to have a chat, feel free to catch me after school or make an appointment with myself or at the office.

Many thanks,  
Mr Bryant