

Robin Class



Dear Year 2 Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you have had a nice Christmas break with family and friends and the children are ready for another exciting term. Thank you for all your support during last term, especially with the preparation for the Christmas performances with costumes and line learning. It was a great success and the children did us all proud!

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 and seeking out animals that live there. 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 connection with our topic we have an International Day planned on 30th January when Robin Class will be focusing on Brazil.

In English we will be focusing on non-chronological reports, recounts, explanation texts and narrative, we will be using texts related to our topic to inspire our writing. We aim to have a specific grammar lesson each week developing our knowledge of question marks, exclamation marks, apostrophes and commas as well as using co-ordinating conjunctions (or, but, yet, so) and subordinating conjunctions (when, if, that, because) to join ideas in sentences together. I have already outlined the spellings we will be learning in phonics each week (supporting activities



on TES Phonics website) and I have attached some spelling practice ideas for you to have a go at home. The children will have their end of term test on Friday 10th February. As always we will aim to be improving our continuous cursive handwriting through a range of activities. (<http://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/>)

In reading the children are regularly winning Dojo's, 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. Our guided 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, use of dictionaries and poetry as well as stories. All of this will help children prepare for their SATs tests in May.

In Maths we will work on problem solving and applying our calculation skills, for example use of money and giving change, also measurement, shape and time. 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. Year 2s will continue to complete weekly target tests on Friday mornings. Please encourage your child to have a go at the set Mathletics challenges as these are planned to directly support in class learning.

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

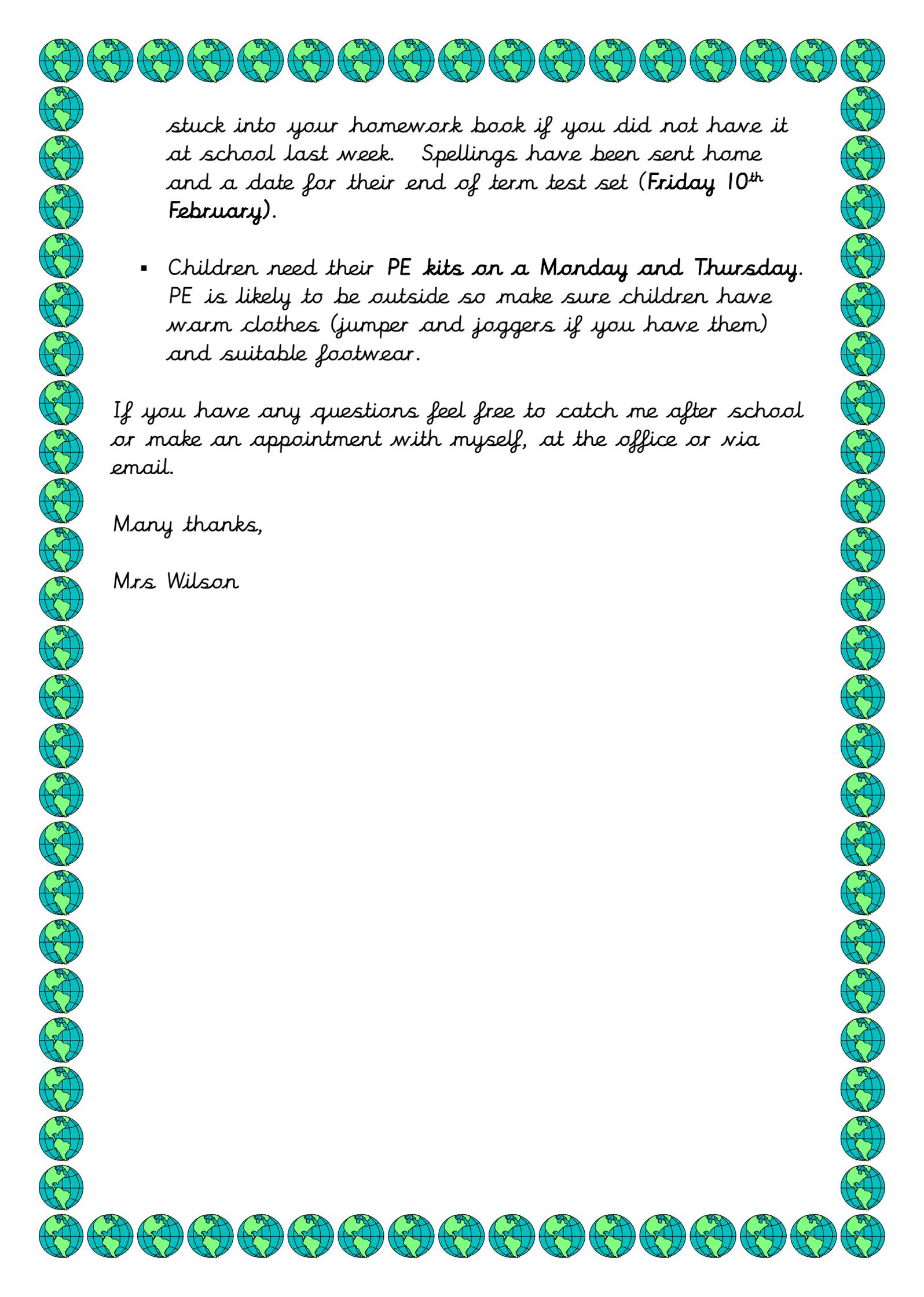


will be outside depending on the weather so please provide your child with suitable PE kit. In RE children are going to be studying Judaism and in particular Hannukah. Mrs Tilsley will be taking children for Science on alternative Wednesdays looking at habitats and environments. In other areas of the 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.

Finally, I have attached a copy of the government's 'Interim Assessment Framework' for Year 2. This outlines what every Year 2 child in the country will be assessed on at the end of this year (June 17) for reading, writing and maths, both in SATS and their work in their books as evidence. I will be holding a meeting about SATS and the Interim Assessment Framework before Easter but if you have any questions or concerns before this then please come to have a chat to me after school.

Things to remember this term:

- 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 Friday morning in Year 2. Please have a go at the set Mathematics challenges which directly supports our learning.
- Homework is due in every Tuesday and will be returned on Thursdays. Please ensure your homework details are



stuck into your homework book if you did not have it at school last week. Spellings have been sent home and a date for their end of term test set (Friday 10th February).

- *Children need their PE kits on a Monday and Thursday. PE is likely to be outside so make sure children have warm clothes (jumper and joggers if you have them) and suitable footwear.*

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

Many thanks,

Mrs Wilson