

Class 5 Spring Newsletter

Monday 9th January 2017

Dear families

What a fantastic and busy Autumn Term we have had in Class 5! I am so proud of how well the children have settled into Year 5 and their new classroom routines – along with becoming more independent and really beginning to develop their self-managing skills. However, I am pleased to announce that the new Spring Term is looking just as exciting and creative, if not more so, than the last.

Topic: Our over-arching theme this term is History-based, studying the ancient Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world. The children will be using sources of evidence to deduce information from the past and will compare aspects of ancient Greek civilisation and society today.

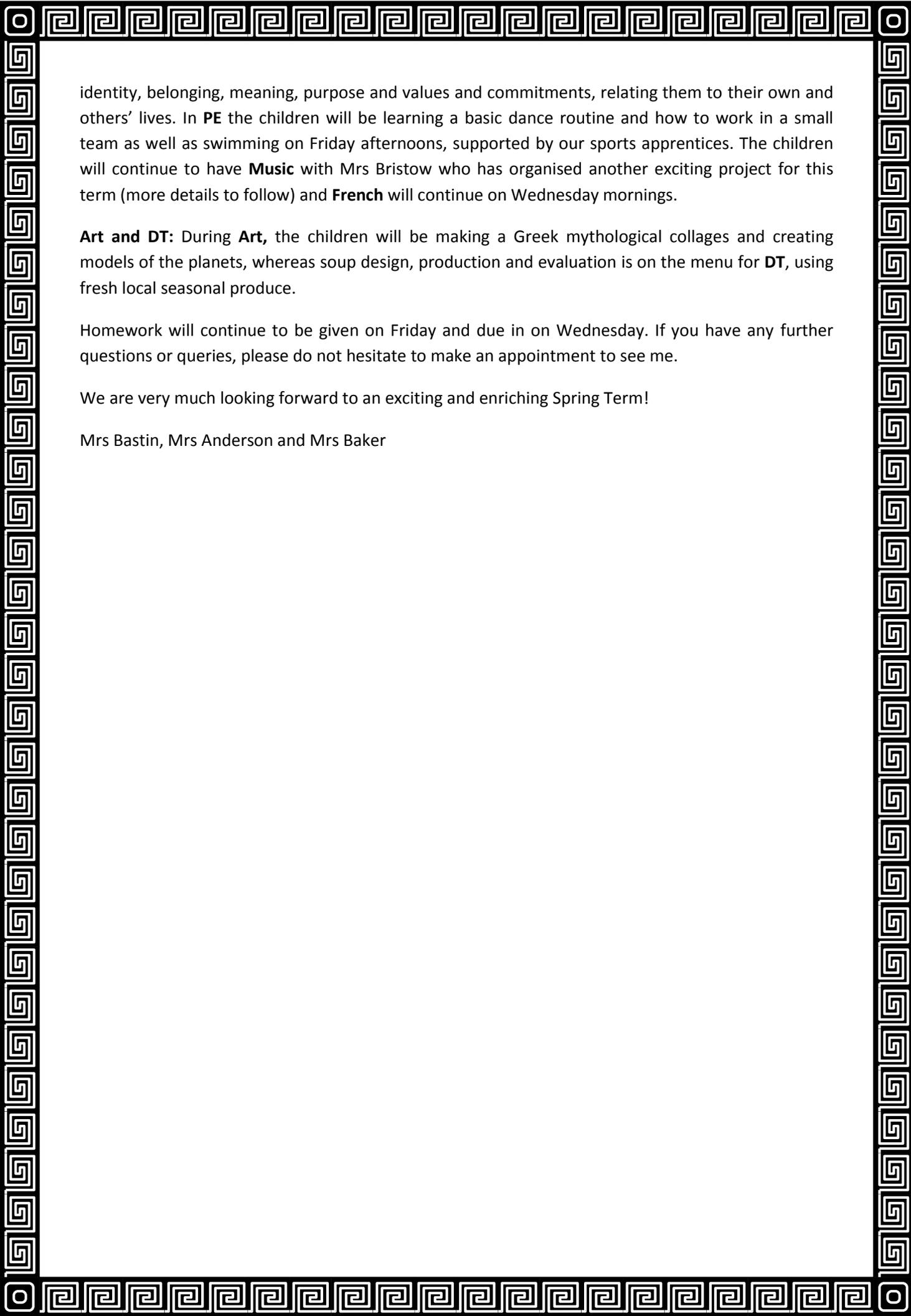
Science: In science the children will be studying Earth and Space and the movement of the Earth and other planets in relation to the Sun and the solar system. They will be using the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky. The children will discover how ideas about the solar system have developed, understanding how the geocentric model of the solar system gave way to the heliocentric model. Then they will consider the work of scientists such as Ptolemy, Alhazen and Copernicus and work scientifically by comparing the time of day at different places on the Earth. They will use internet links, direct communication and simple models of the solar system to inform and support their ideas.

English: We had a very entertaining (and messy) start to our English instruction unit this term as I followed the children's jam sandwich-making instructions. However, the children have now begun improving their instruction writing and will be testing them out on each other before writing instructions for an Ancient Greek who has time-travelled to modern times. Furthermore, they will be studying topic-linked Greek Myths and Legends, and stories with historical settings, and will be creating their own Greek-style myths. Later in the term, continuing with the theme of older literature, we will undertake a book-study of Macbeth and look at play-scripts and poetry.

Sentence of the Week will continue, incorporating key spelling, grammar and punctuation rules which are statutory requirements of the national curriculum. May I take this opportunity to remind you to encourage your child to read as much as possible in Year 5 and that reading records will be collected every Monday as usual to track your child's progress.

Maths: This term all key areas of the maths curriculum will be revisited, beginning with shape, time and measure, including reflection, translation and co-ordinates. The children will interpret and present data related to the science topic of Earth and Space. Written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division will be reviewed and developed as the children apply their problem-solving skills to work out missing number problems, money problems and progress to increasingly more difficult 2 step word problems. Fractions, decimals and percentages will also be revisited and refined.

RE: Hindu beliefs and festivals are the focus this term; identifying similarities and differences with other religions. The children will begin to pose and suggest answers to questions of sacredness,



identity, belonging, meaning, purpose and values and commitments, relating them to their own and others' lives. In **PE** the children will be learning a basic dance routine and how to work in a small team as well as swimming on Friday afternoons, supported by our sports apprentices. The children will continue to have **Music** with Mrs Bristow who has organised another exciting project for this term (more details to follow) and **French** will continue on Wednesday mornings.

Art and DT: During **Art**, the children will be making a Greek mythological collages and creating models of the planets, whereas soup design, production and evaluation is on the menu for **DT**, using fresh local seasonal produce.

Homework will continue to be given on Friday and due in on Wednesday. If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

We are very much looking forward to an exciting and enriching Spring Term!

Mrs Bastin, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Baker