

Elm Class Newsletter Spring 1 2023

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has had a well-deserved Christmas break. Mrs Saxon and I are very much looking forward to embarking on an exciting year ahead. The children have made a very positive start to the new academic year and we are enjoying spending time with them.

Key Dates

- * Monday 9th January- The term begins.
- * Wednesday 18th January- Science show with Adrien Bowman.
- * Friday 10th February- Home Learning Challenges due in.
- * Thursday 16th February- Year 3 class assembly. 9am.
- * Friday 17th February- Last day of the spring 1 half term.

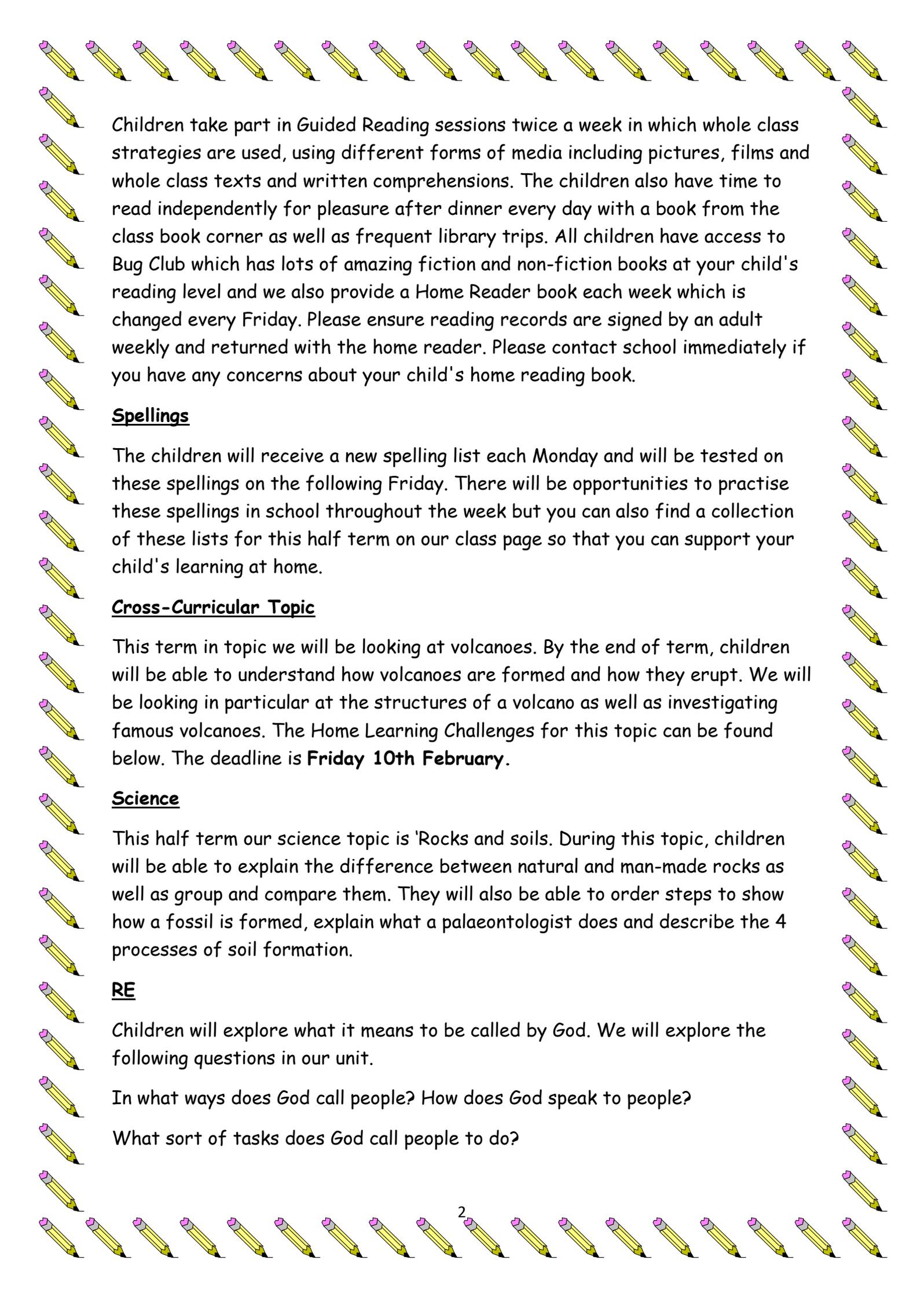
Maths

Throughout this half term, we will explore measurement of length, mass and volume. We will begin with children measuring length in metres and centimetres before moving on to kilometres. They will be able to convert different units of measurement as well as compare different lengths. We will then move on to measuring mass using scales. Children will look at different units to measure mass, specifically grams and kilograms. They will become well-versed in reading weighing scales that have different values for each marking. Once raw skills are achieved, pupils will attempt basic word problems which will extend to more challenging word problems. Finally, pupils will learn to measure volume using millilitres and litres. They will also come across various problem-solving questions on volume and capacity.

English

This half term we will be exploring the legend of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. We will focus upon a few retellings of the story, where pupils will complete a range of reading and writing activities, including letter writing and character descriptions. This will enable the children to acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding of the content and context; the conditions and the actions, thoughts and feelings of the characters in the story. Our next unit focusses on the short film animation, 'Marshmallows', where we will be building up to write a non-chronological report.

Reading



Children take part in Guided Reading sessions twice a week in which whole class strategies are used, using different forms of media including pictures, films and whole class texts and written comprehensions. The children also have time to read independently for pleasure after dinner every day with a book from the class book corner as well as frequent library trips. All children have access to Bug Club which has lots of amazing fiction and non-fiction books at your child's reading level and we also provide a Home Reader book each week which is changed every Friday. Please ensure reading records are signed by an adult weekly and returned with the home reader. Please contact school immediately if you have any concerns about your child's home reading book.

Spellings

The children will receive a new spelling list each Monday and will be tested on these spellings on the following Friday. There will be opportunities to practise these spellings in school throughout the week but you can also find a collection of these lists for this half term on our class page so that you can support your child's learning at home.

Cross-Curricular Topic

This term in topic we will be looking at volcanoes. By the end of term, children will be able to understand how volcanoes are formed and how they erupt. We will be looking in particular at the structures of a volcano as well as investigating famous volcanoes. The Home Learning Challenges for this topic can be found below. The deadline is **Friday 10th February**.

Science

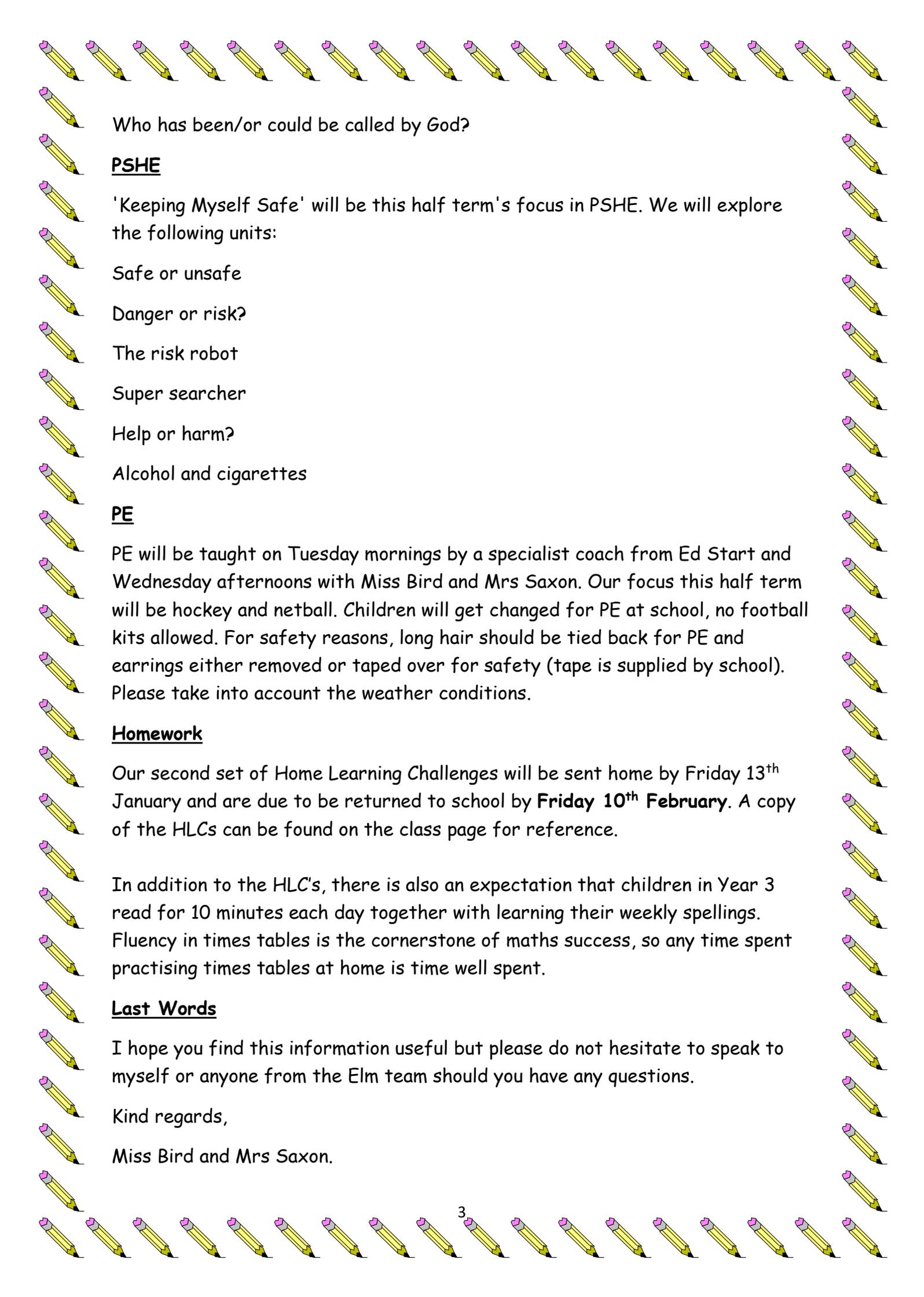
This half term our science topic is 'Rocks and soils. During this topic, children will be able to explain the difference between natural and man-made rocks as well as group and compare them. They will also be able to order steps to show how a fossil is formed, explain what a palaeontologist does and describe the 4 processes of soil formation.

RE

Children will explore what it means to be called by God. We will explore the following questions in our unit.

In what ways does God call people? How does God speak to people?

What sort of tasks does God call people to do?



Who has been/or could be called by God?

PSHE

'Keeping Myself Safe' will be this half term's focus in PSHE. We will explore the following units:

Safe or unsafe

Danger or risk?

The risk robot

Super searcher

Help or harm?

Alcohol and cigarettes

PE

PE will be taught on Tuesday mornings by a specialist coach from Ed Start and Wednesday afternoons with Miss Bird and Mrs Saxon. Our focus this half term will be hockey and netball. Children will get changed for PE at school, no football kits allowed. For safety reasons, long hair should be tied back for PE and earrings either removed or taped over for safety (tape is supplied by school). Please take into account the weather conditions.

Homework

Our second set of Home Learning Challenges will be sent home by Friday 13th January and are due to be returned to school by **Friday 10th February**. A copy of the HLCs can be found on the class page for reference.

In addition to the HLC's, there is also an expectation that children in Year 3 read for 10 minutes each day together with learning their weekly spellings. Fluency in times tables is the cornerstone of maths success, so any time spent practising times tables at home is time well spent.

Last Words

I hope you find this information useful but please do not hesitate to speak to myself or anyone from the Elm team should you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Miss Bird and Mrs Saxon.