

Maple Class Newsletter Spring 1 2023

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Many thanks for our Christmas gifts; it was very kind and generous of you and your thoughtfulness is much appreciated by us all!

As you are aware, the teaching of Maple Class will be shared between Mrs Holt and Mrs Newby from January for the rest of this academic year. Mrs Holt will teach on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Newby will be in school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We will continue to be well supported by Mrs Nuttall and you are more than welcome to approach any of us should you have any questions, concerns or comments.

Please find below some information which you will hopefully find useful during the next half term; remember to look at the Maple Class page on the school website for more details about the curriculum and events in school.

Maths

Our Maths topics for this half term include: to add, subtract and multiply fractions; to write fractions as decimals; to order and compare decimals; and also to add and subtract decimals.

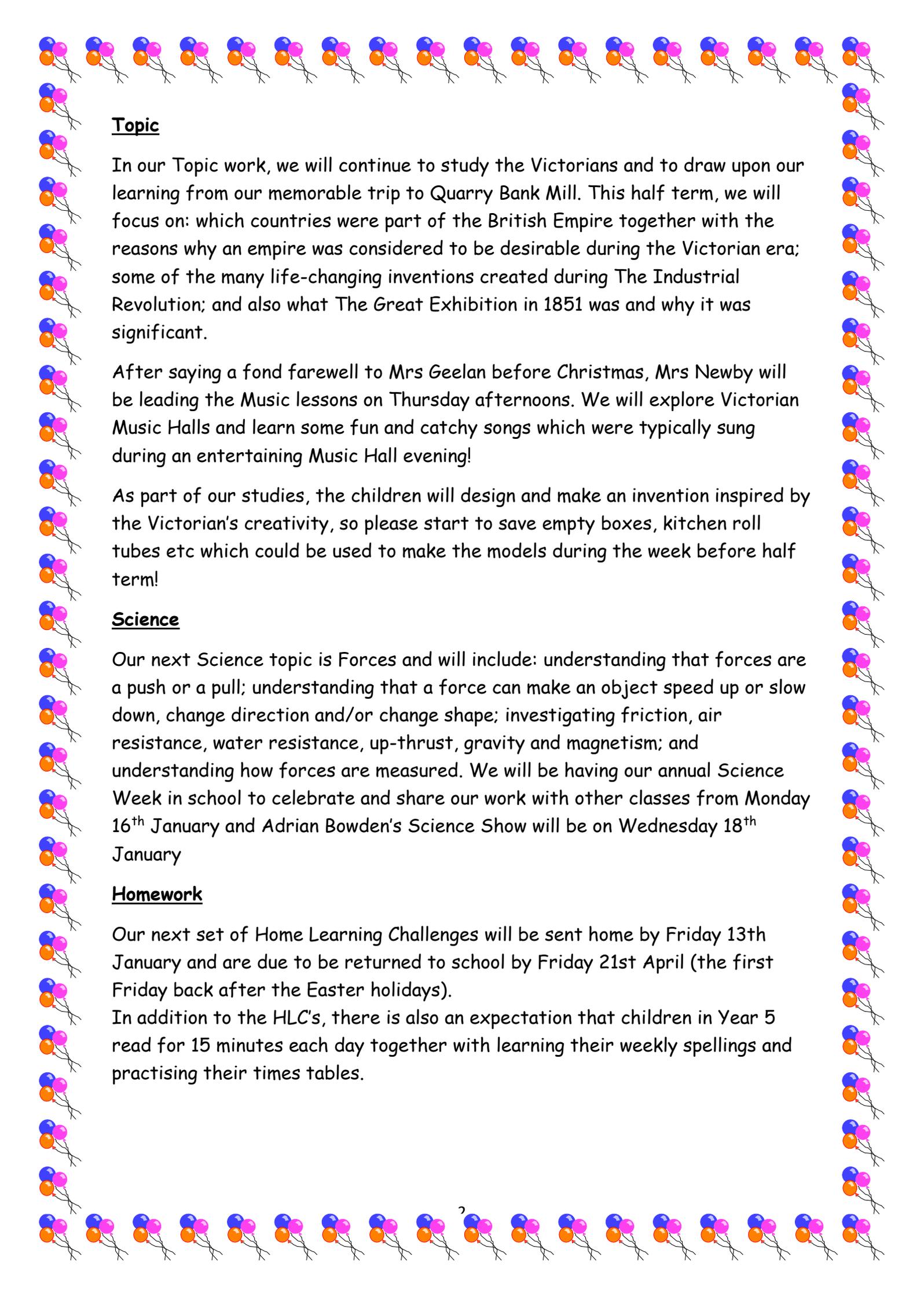
English

We will start the spring term by using modal verbs to write imaginary horoscopes for 2023 before moving on to our next book which will be *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty. The book features a young boy called Jim who finds himself alone in London in the 1860's. This gripping adventure is based on the true story of the orphan whose plight inspired Dr Barnardo to set up his famous children's refuge and will perfectly complement our Topic work. In addition, we will also write poems using metaphors and personification.

Spellings

The weekly spelling lists for this half term have been uploaded onto the Year 5 class page on the website for your information and to help you to support your child's learning at home.

Just like in the autumn term, a new spelling list will be given to the children each Monday and they will be tested every Friday.



Topic

In our Topic work, we will continue to study the Victorians and to draw upon our learning from our memorable trip to Quarry Bank Mill. This half term, we will focus on: which countries were part of the British Empire together with the reasons why an empire was considered to be desirable during the Victorian era; some of the many life-changing inventions created during The Industrial Revolution; and also what The Great Exhibition in 1851 was and why it was significant.

After saying a fond farewell to Mrs Geelan before Christmas, Mrs Newby will be leading the Music lessons on Thursday afternoons. We will explore Victorian Music Halls and learn some fun and catchy songs which were typically sung during an entertaining Music Hall evening!

As part of our studies, the children will design and make an invention inspired by the Victorian's creativity, so please start to save empty boxes, kitchen roll tubes etc which could be used to make the models during the week before half term!

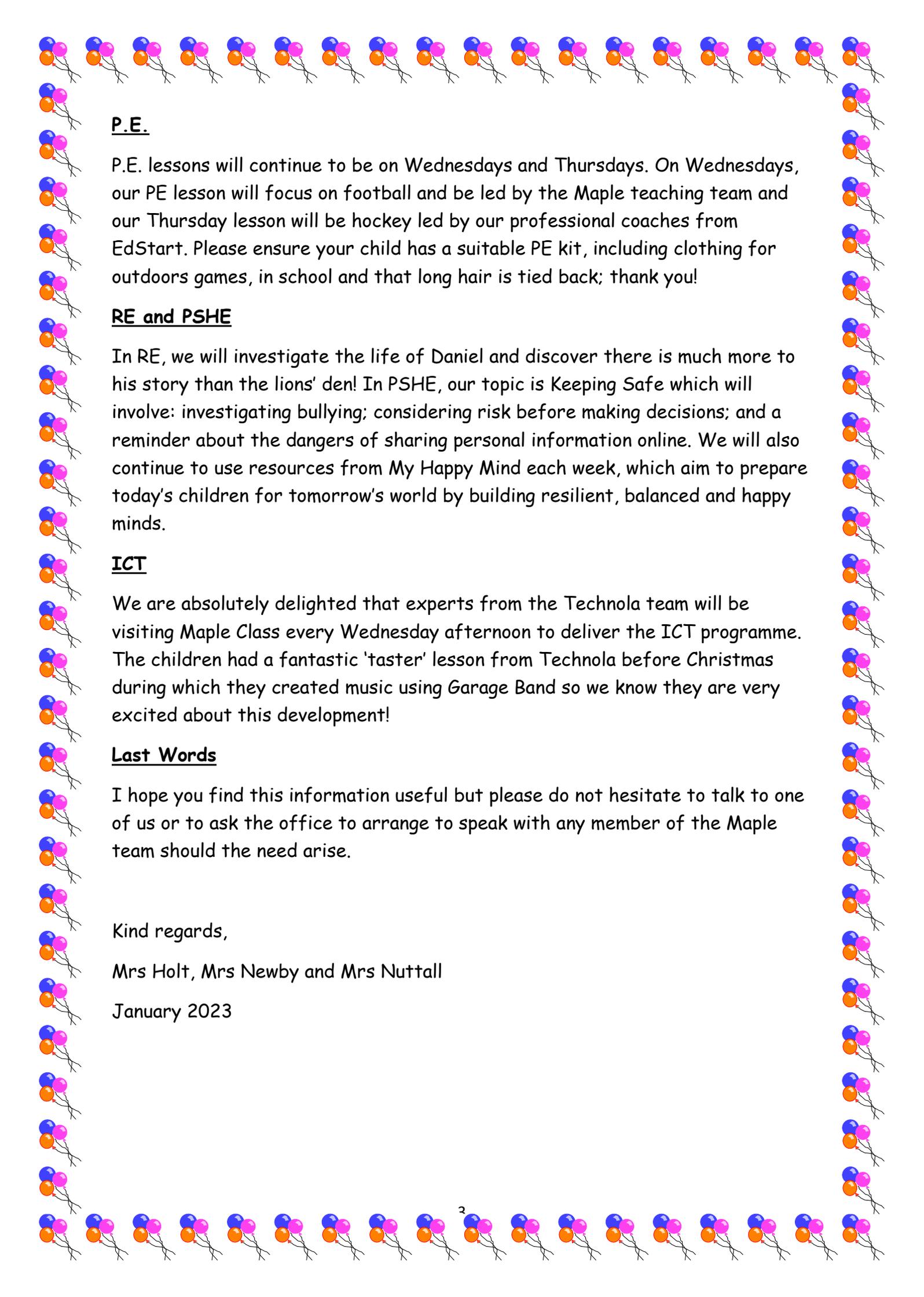
Science

Our next Science topic is Forces and will include: understanding that forces are a push or a pull; understanding that a force can make an object speed up or slow down, change direction and/or change shape; investigating friction, air resistance, water resistance, up-thrust, gravity and magnetism; and understanding how forces are measured. We will be having our annual Science Week in school to celebrate and share our work with other classes from Monday 16th January and Adrian Bowden's Science Show will be on Wednesday 18th January

Homework

Our next set of Home Learning Challenges will be sent home by Friday 13th January and are due to be returned to school by Friday 21st April (the first Friday back after the Easter holidays).

In addition to the HLC's, there is also an expectation that children in Year 5 read for 15 minutes each day together with learning their weekly spellings and practising their times tables.



P.E.

P.E. lessons will continue to be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesdays, our PE lesson will focus on football and be led by the Maple teaching team and our Thursday lesson will be hockey led by our professional coaches from EdStart. Please ensure your child has a suitable PE kit, including clothing for outdoors games, in school and that long hair is tied back; thank you!

RE and PSHE

In RE, we will investigate the life of Daniel and discover there is much more to his story than the lions' den! In PSHE, our topic is Keeping Safe which will involve: investigating bullying; considering risk before making decisions; and a reminder about the dangers of sharing personal information online. We will also continue to use resources from My Happy Mind each week, which aim to prepare today's children for tomorrow's world by building resilient, balanced and happy minds.

ICT

We are absolutely delighted that experts from the Technola team will be visiting Maple Class every Wednesday afternoon to deliver the ICT programme. The children had a fantastic 'taster' lesson from Technola before Christmas during which they created music using Garage Band so we know they are very excited about this development!

Last Words

I hope you find this information useful but please do not hesitate to talk to one of us or to ask the office to arrange to speak with any member of the Maple team should the need arise.

Kind regards,

Mrs Holt, Mrs Newby and Mrs Nuttall

January 2023