



# Y6 Deer Class Newsletter Term 1

Hello and welcome to Year 6!

It's difficult to know what to say after everything that has happened over the past 6 months. In many ways, it has been lovely to spend so much time at home with family, enjoying the summer sunshine and making the most of the time together that we'll never get again. But on the other hand, it has been difficult to be away from normality for so long and having to make significant changes to the way we live our lives.

I can only imagine how challenging it has been for all of you at times, especially given how much there is for you to think about for this academic year regarding secondary school choices etc. Fortunately, the Kent Test has been postponed until **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October** which gives the children more time to settle back into a school routine before going through such an important assessment for many.

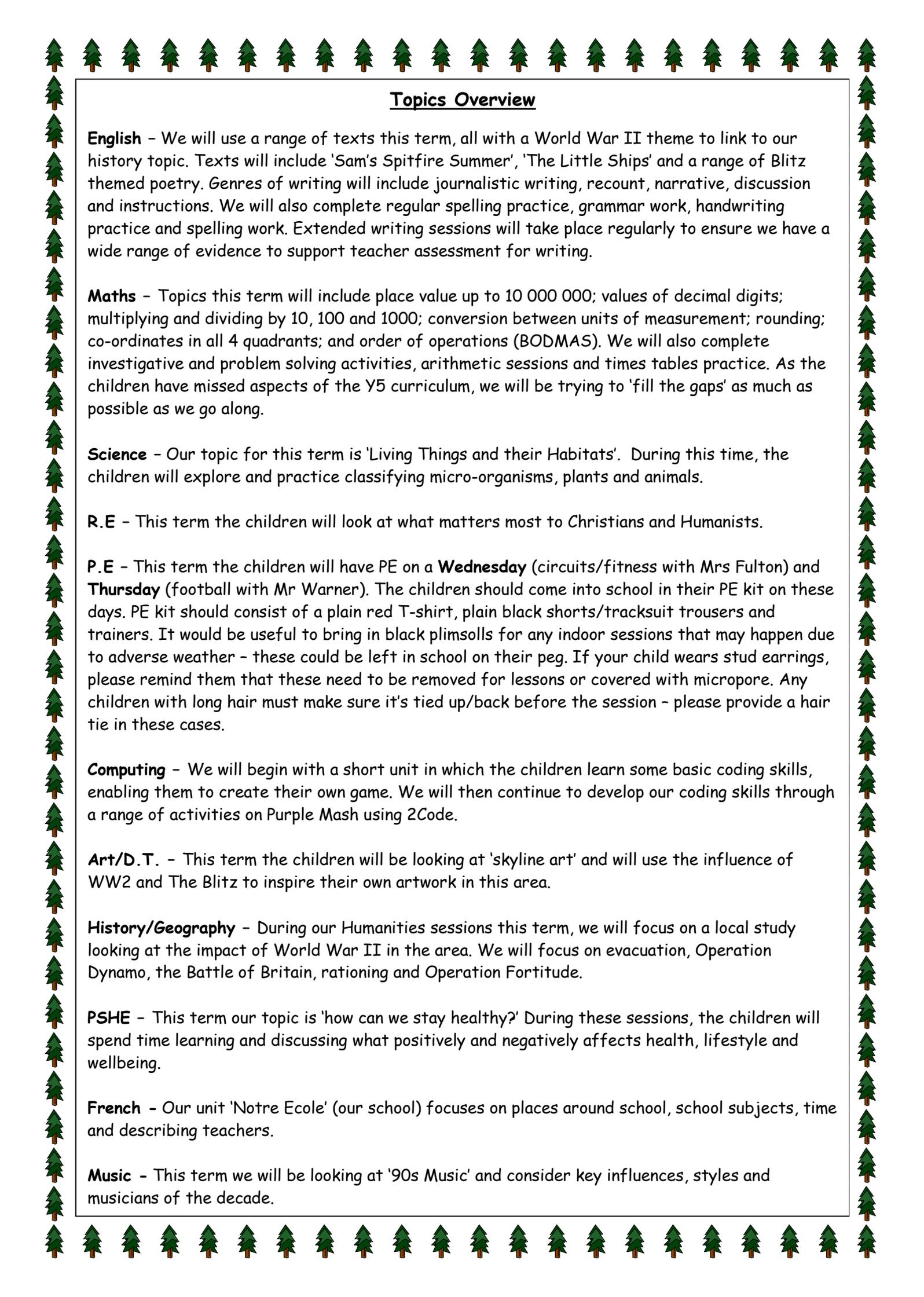
Despite the challenges, I really do hope you have all enjoyed the summer and made the most of the lovely weather and high temperatures we experienced (at some points it was almost too hot!). Hopefully everyone is feeling refreshed and ready for a brand new year, maybe more so than ever before.

As you know, Year 6 is an important and very busy year for so many different reasons, particularly this year with our current situation. Please rest assured that we will do everything we can to ensure that the children have a safe, successful and enjoyable final year at Boughton.

If there is any support or advice I can offer throughout the year, please don't hesitate to ask or get in touch. I'm here to help your children in every way that I can, so please feel free to come and speak to me briefly before school or after school at the gate. Alternatively, you can email me at [daniel.warner@bad.kent.sch.uk](mailto:daniel.warner@bad.kent.sch.uk).

We look forward to working with you all this year.

Mr Warner (and the Y6 team)



## Topics Overview

**English** - We will use a range of texts this term, all with a World War II theme to link to our history topic. Texts will include 'Sam's Spitfire Summer', 'The Little Ships' and a range of Blitz themed poetry. Genres of writing will include journalistic writing, recount, narrative, discussion and instructions. We will also complete regular spelling practice, grammar work, handwriting practice and spelling work. Extended writing sessions will take place regularly to ensure we have a wide range of evidence to support teacher assessment for writing.

**Maths** - Topics this term will include place value up to 10 000 000; values of decimal digits; multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000; conversion between units of measurement; rounding; co-ordinates in all 4 quadrants; and order of operations (BODMAS). We will also complete investigative and problem solving activities, arithmetic sessions and times tables practice. As the children have missed aspects of the Y5 curriculum, we will be trying to 'fill the gaps' as much as possible as we go along.

**Science** - Our topic for this term is 'Living Things and their Habitats'. During this time, the children will explore and practice classifying micro-organisms, plants and animals.

**R.E** - This term the children will look at what matters most to Christians and Humanists.

**P.E** - This term the children will have PE on a **Wednesday** (circuits/fitness with Mrs Fulton) and **Thursday** (football with Mr Warner). The children should come into school in their PE kit on these days. PE kit should consist of a plain red T-shirt, plain black shorts/tracksuit trousers and trainers. It would be useful to bring in black plimsolls for any indoor sessions that may happen due to adverse weather - these could be left in school on their peg. If your child wears stud earrings, please remind them that these need to be removed for lessons or covered with micropore. Any children with long hair must make sure it's tied up/back before the session - please provide a hair tie in these cases.

**Computing** - We will begin with a short unit in which the children learn some basic coding skills, enabling them to create their own game. We will then continue to develop our coding skills through a range of activities on Purple Mash using 2Code.

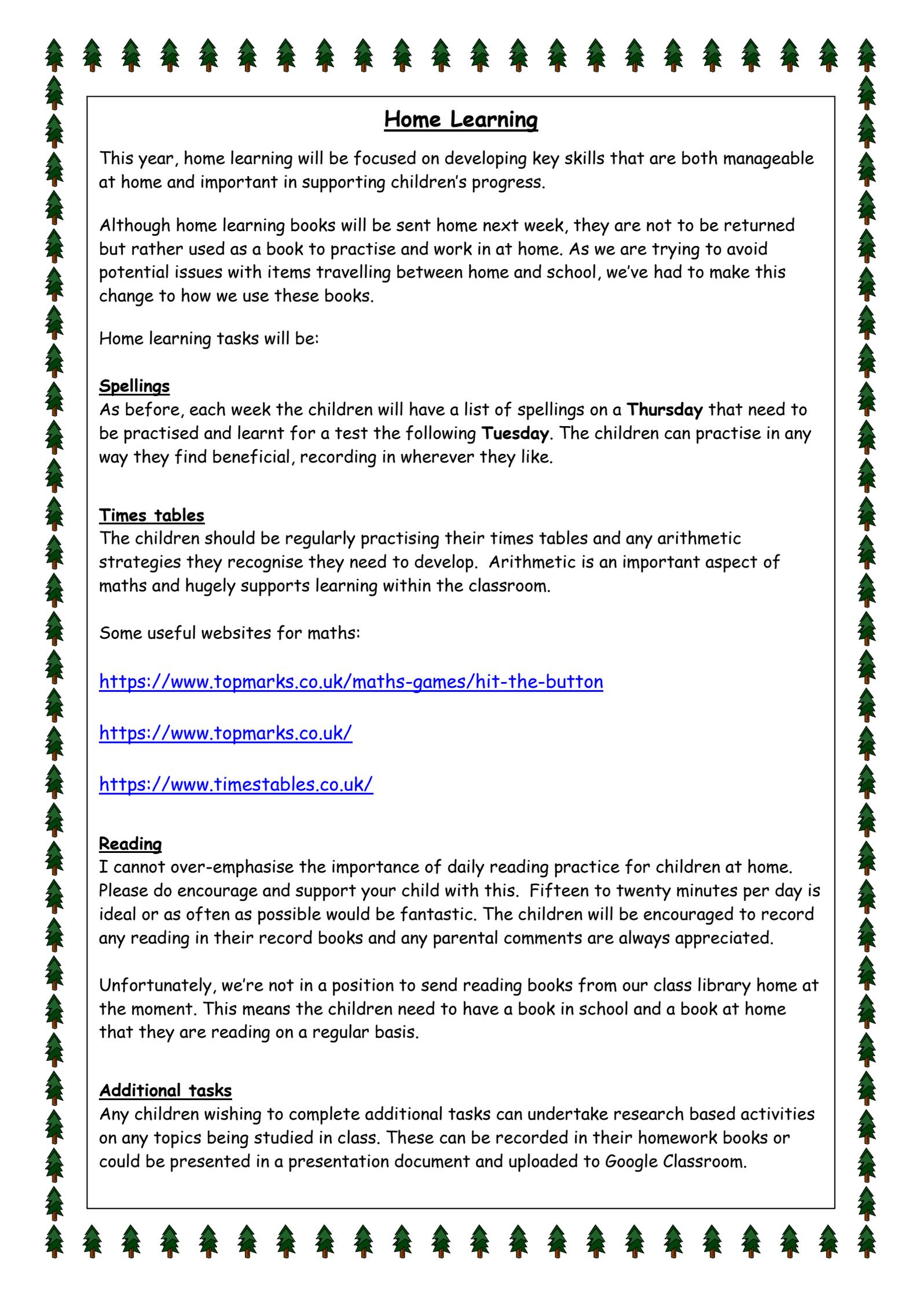
**Art/D.T.** - This term the children will be looking at 'skyline art' and will use the influence of WW2 and The Blitz to inspire their own artwork in this area.

**History/Geography** - During our Humanities sessions this term, we will focus on a local study looking at the impact of World War II in the area. We will focus on evacuation, Operation Dynamo, the Battle of Britain, rationing and Operation Fortitude.

**PSHE** - This term our topic is 'how can we stay healthy?' During these sessions, the children will spend time learning and discussing what positively and negatively affects health, lifestyle and wellbeing.

**French** - Our unit 'Notre Ecole' (our school) focuses on places around school, school subjects, time and describing teachers.

**Music** - This term we will be looking at '90s Music' and consider key influences, styles and musicians of the decade.



## Home Learning

This year, home learning will be focused on developing key skills that are both manageable at home and important in supporting children's progress.

Although home learning books will be sent home next week, they are not to be returned but rather used as a book to practise and work in at home. As we are trying to avoid potential issues with items travelling between home and school, we've had to make this change to how we use these books.

Home learning tasks will be:

### Spellings

As before, each week the children will have a list of spellings on a **Thursday** that need to be practised and learnt for a test the following **Tuesday**. The children can practise in any way they find beneficial, recording in wherever they like.

### Times tables

The children should be regularly practising their times tables and any arithmetic strategies they recognise they need to develop. Arithmetic is an important aspect of maths and hugely supports learning within the classroom.

Some useful websites for maths:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

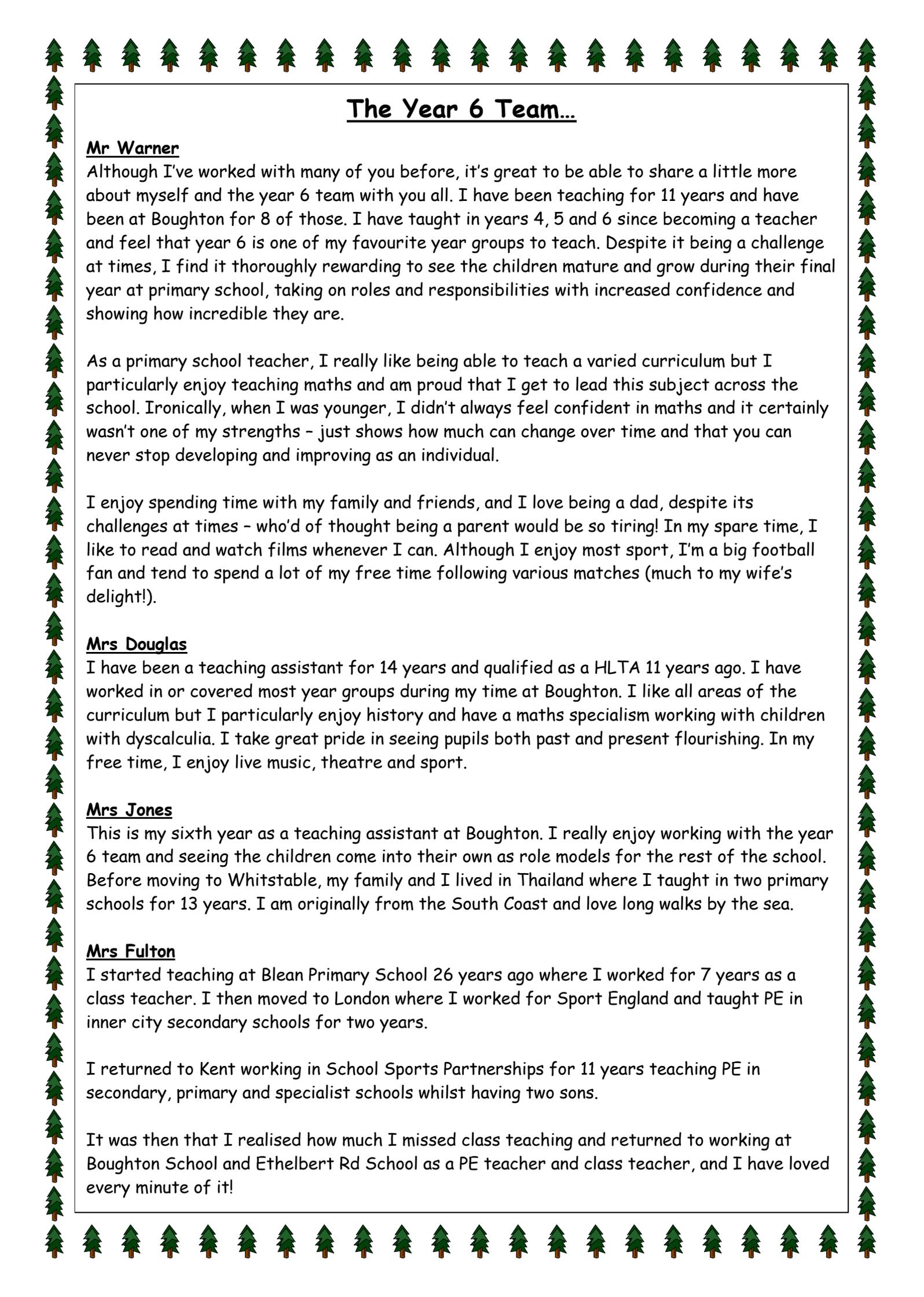
### Reading

I cannot over-emphasise the importance of daily reading practice for children at home. Please do encourage and support your child with this. Fifteen to twenty minutes per day is ideal or as often as possible would be fantastic. The children will be encouraged to record any reading in their record books and any parental comments are always appreciated.

Unfortunately, we're not in a position to send reading books from our class library home at the moment. This means the children need to have a book in school and a book at home that they are reading on a regular basis.

### Additional tasks

Any children wishing to complete additional tasks can undertake research based activities on any topics being studied in class. These can be recorded in their homework books or could be presented in a presentation document and uploaded to *Google Classroom*.



## The Year 6 Team...

### Mr Warner

Although I've worked with many of you before, it's great to be able to share a little more about myself and the year 6 team with you all. I have been teaching for 11 years and have been at Boughton for 8 of those. I have taught in years 4, 5 and 6 since becoming a teacher and feel that year 6 is one of my favourite year groups to teach. Despite it being a challenge at times, I find it thoroughly rewarding to see the children mature and grow during their final year at primary school, taking on roles and responsibilities with increased confidence and showing how incredible they are.

As a primary school teacher, I really like being able to teach a varied curriculum but I particularly enjoy teaching maths and am proud that I get to lead this subject across the school. Ironically, when I was younger, I didn't always feel confident in maths and it certainly wasn't one of my strengths - just shows how much can change over time and that you can never stop developing and improving as an individual.

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, and I love being a dad, despite its challenges at times - who'd of thought being a parent would be so tiring! In my spare time, I like to read and watch films whenever I can. Although I enjoy most sport, I'm a big football fan and tend to spend a lot of my free time following various matches (much to my wife's delight!).

### Mrs Douglas

I have been a teaching assistant for 14 years and qualified as a HLTA 11 years ago. I have worked in or covered most year groups during my time at Boughton. I like all areas of the curriculum but I particularly enjoy history and have a maths specialism working with children with dyscalculia. I take great pride in seeing pupils both past and present flourishing. In my free time, I enjoy live music, theatre and sport.

### Mrs Jones

This is my sixth year as a teaching assistant at Boughton. I really enjoy working with the year 6 team and seeing the children come into their own as role models for the rest of the school. Before moving to Whitstable, my family and I lived in Thailand where I taught in two primary schools for 13 years. I am originally from the South Coast and love long walks by the sea.

### Mrs Fulton

I started teaching at Blean Primary School 26 years ago where I worked for 7 years as a class teacher. I then moved to London where I worked for Sport England and taught PE in inner city secondary schools for two years.

I returned to Kent working in School Sports Partnerships for 11 years teaching PE in secondary, primary and specialist schools whilst having two sons.

It was then that I realised how much I missed class teaching and returned to working at Boughton School and Ethelbert Rd School as a PE teacher and class teacher, and I have loved every minute of it!