

Dear Parents and Carers,

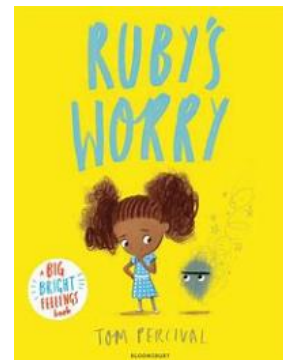
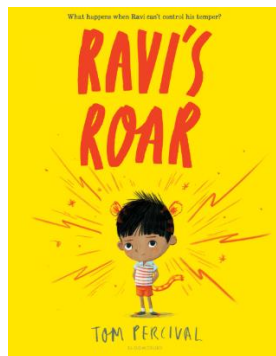
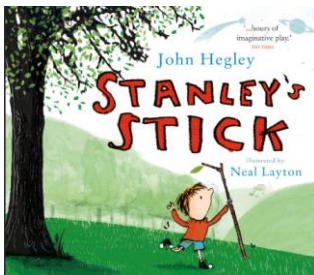
Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year. Welcome to the start of Spring Term 2026. We hope 2026 brings us lots of excitement. Learning in year 1 is going to be exciting.

Here is a brief overview of our topics for this term:

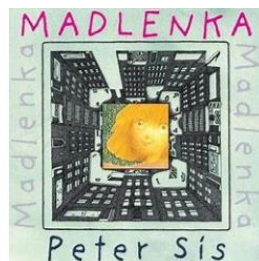
**RE-** In RE this half term our topic is 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. The focus of this branch is for pupils to develop an early understanding of the Christian belief that through the ministry of Jesus, some of those who encountered him recognised he was the Son of God.

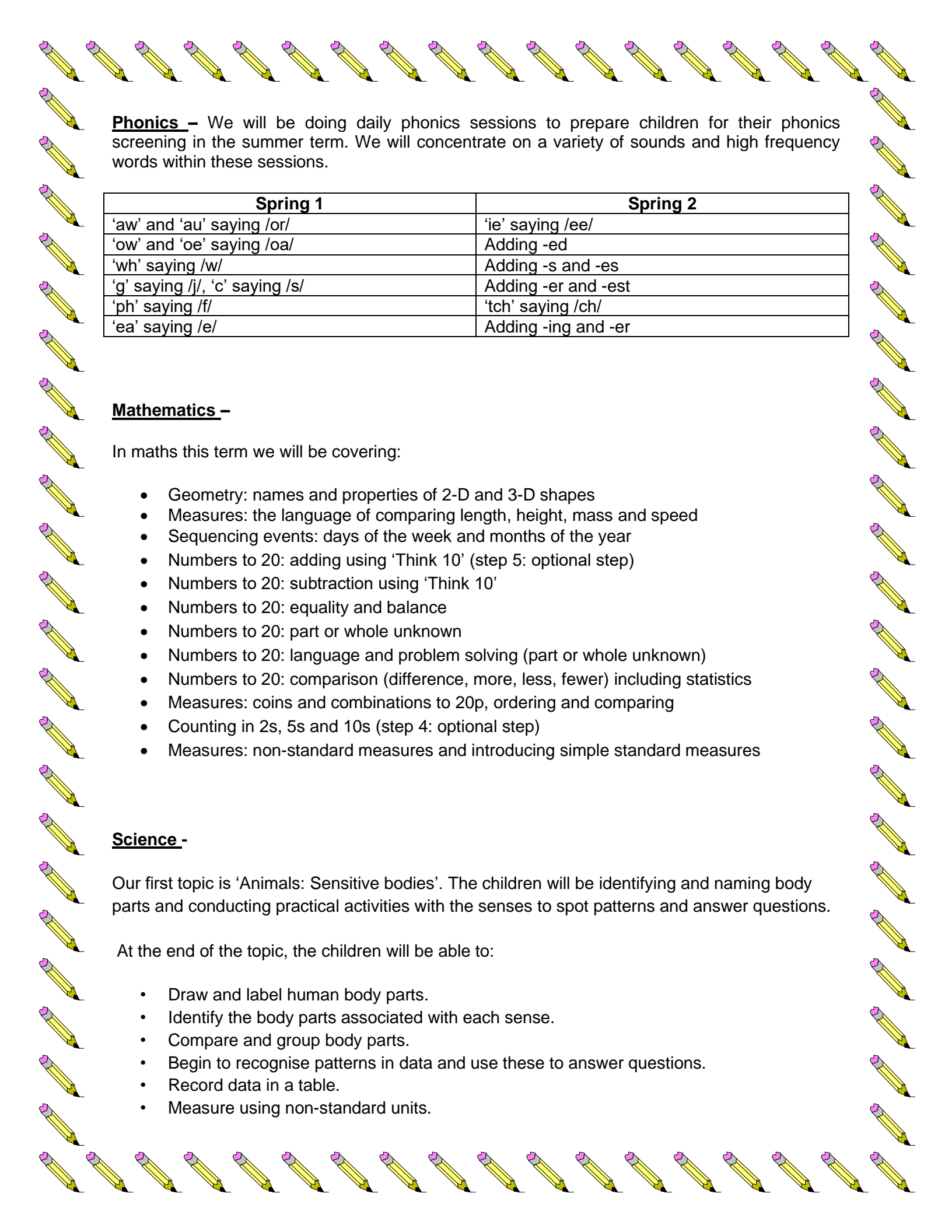
After the half term we will move on to the topic 'Desert to Garden'. The focus of this branch is to learn a little about the season of Lent as a time to prepare for Easter and to know the story of the last week of Jesus' life, his death, and resurrection.

**English-** In English this half term we will be focusing on Narrative: Stanley's Stick by John Hegley, with an outcome for the children to create own versions of Stanley's Stick so that they are the main character of their own story. We will then move on to Recounts, focussing on 'Ravi's Roar' and 'Ruby's Worry' by Tom Percival. The outcome for this unit will be to write a recount of a time when they had a roar like Ravi or a worry like Ruby. The final unit for this half term will be a Poetry unit featuring 'Oi Frog!' by Kes Gray & illustrated by Jim Field. The outcome for this unit will be to create a presentation copy of one of their poems and perform poems to the class.



After half term we will be continuing to look at Narrative: Madlenka by Peter Sis with an outcome to create a three-part storyboard to plan and structure their own recount. Our final unit will be Poetry: Performance Poems.





**Phonics** – We will be doing daily phonics sessions to prepare children for their phonics screening in the summer term. We will concentrate on a variety of sounds and high frequency words within these sessions.

Spring 1	Spring 2
'aw' and 'au' saying /or/	'ie' saying /ee/
'ow' and 'oe' saying /oa/	Adding -ed
'wh' saying /w/	Adding -s and -es
'g' saying /j/, 'c' saying /s/	Adding -er and -est
'ph' saying /f/	'tch' saying /ch/
'ea' saying /e/	Adding -ing and -er

**Mathematics** –

In maths this term we will be covering:

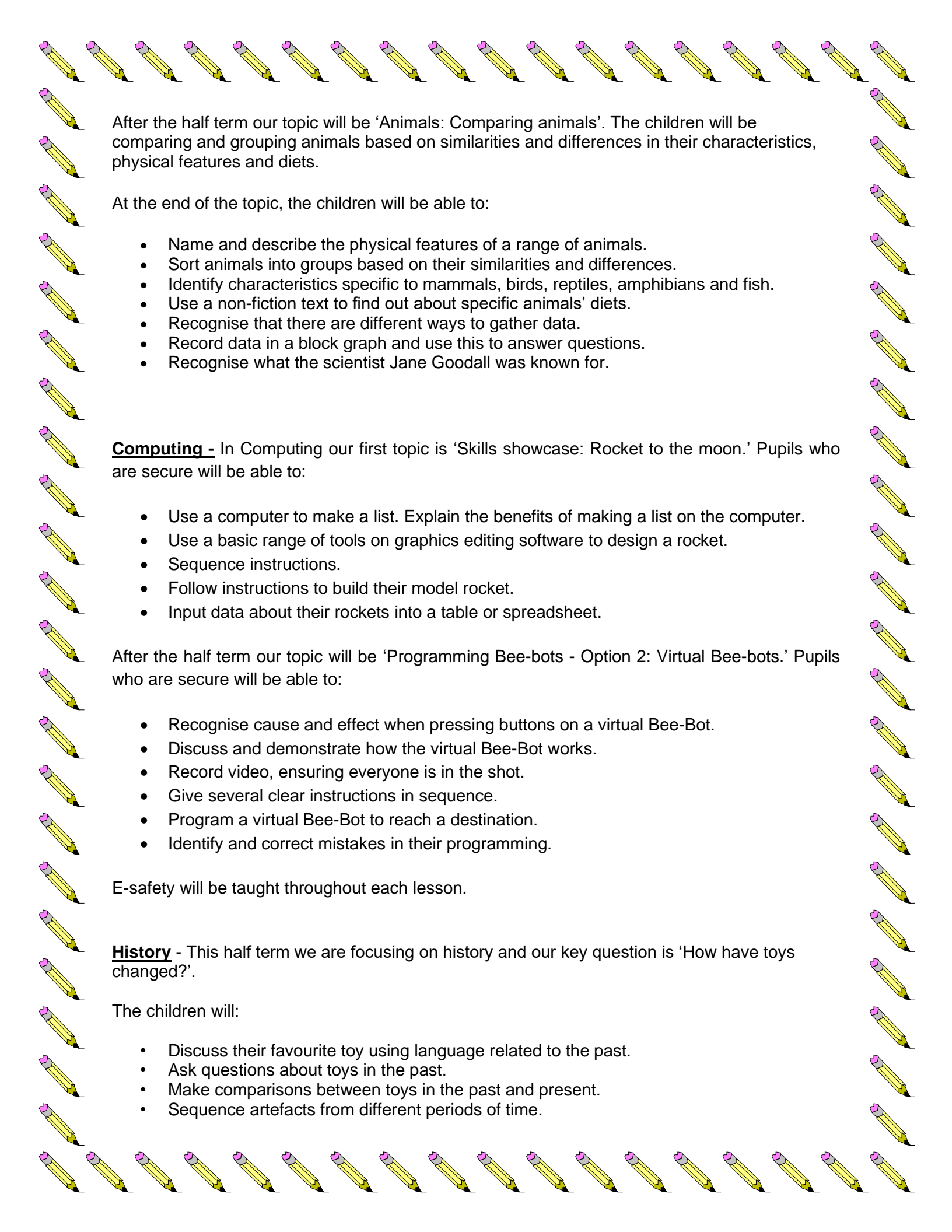
- Geometry: names and properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes
- Measures: the language of comparing length, height, mass and speed
- Sequencing events: days of the week and months of the year
- Numbers to 20: adding using 'Think 10' (step 5: optional step)
- Numbers to 20: subtraction using 'Think 10'
- Numbers to 20: equality and balance
- Numbers to 20: part or whole unknown
- Numbers to 20: language and problem solving (part or whole unknown)
- Numbers to 20: comparison (difference, more, less, fewer) including statistics
- Measures: coins and combinations to 20p, ordering and comparing
- Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s (step 4: optional step)
- Measures: non-standard measures and introducing simple standard measures

**Science** -

Our first topic is 'Animals: Sensitive bodies'. The children will be identifying and naming body parts and conducting practical activities with the senses to spot patterns and answer questions.

At the end of the topic, the children will be able to:

- Draw and label human body parts.
- Identify the body parts associated with each sense.
- Compare and group body parts.
- Begin to recognise patterns in data and use these to answer questions.
- Record data in a table.
- Measure using non-standard units.



After the half term our topic will be 'Animals: Comparing animals'. The children will be comparing and grouping animals based on similarities and differences in their characteristics, physical features and diets.

At the end of the topic, the children will be able to:

- Name and describe the physical features of a range of animals.
- Sort animals into groups based on their similarities and differences.
- Identify characteristics specific to mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.
- Use a non-fiction text to find out about specific animals' diets.
- Recognise that there are different ways to gather data.
- Record data in a block graph and use this to answer questions.
- Recognise what the scientist Jane Goodall was known for.

**Computing** - In Computing our first topic is 'Skills showcase: Rocket to the moon.' Pupils who are secure will be able to:

- Use a computer to make a list. Explain the benefits of making a list on the computer.
- Use a basic range of tools on graphics editing software to design a rocket.
- Sequence instructions.
- Follow instructions to build their model rocket.
- Input data about their rockets into a table or spreadsheet.

After the half term our topic will be 'Programming Bee-bots - Option 2: Virtual Bee-bots.' Pupils who are secure will be able to:

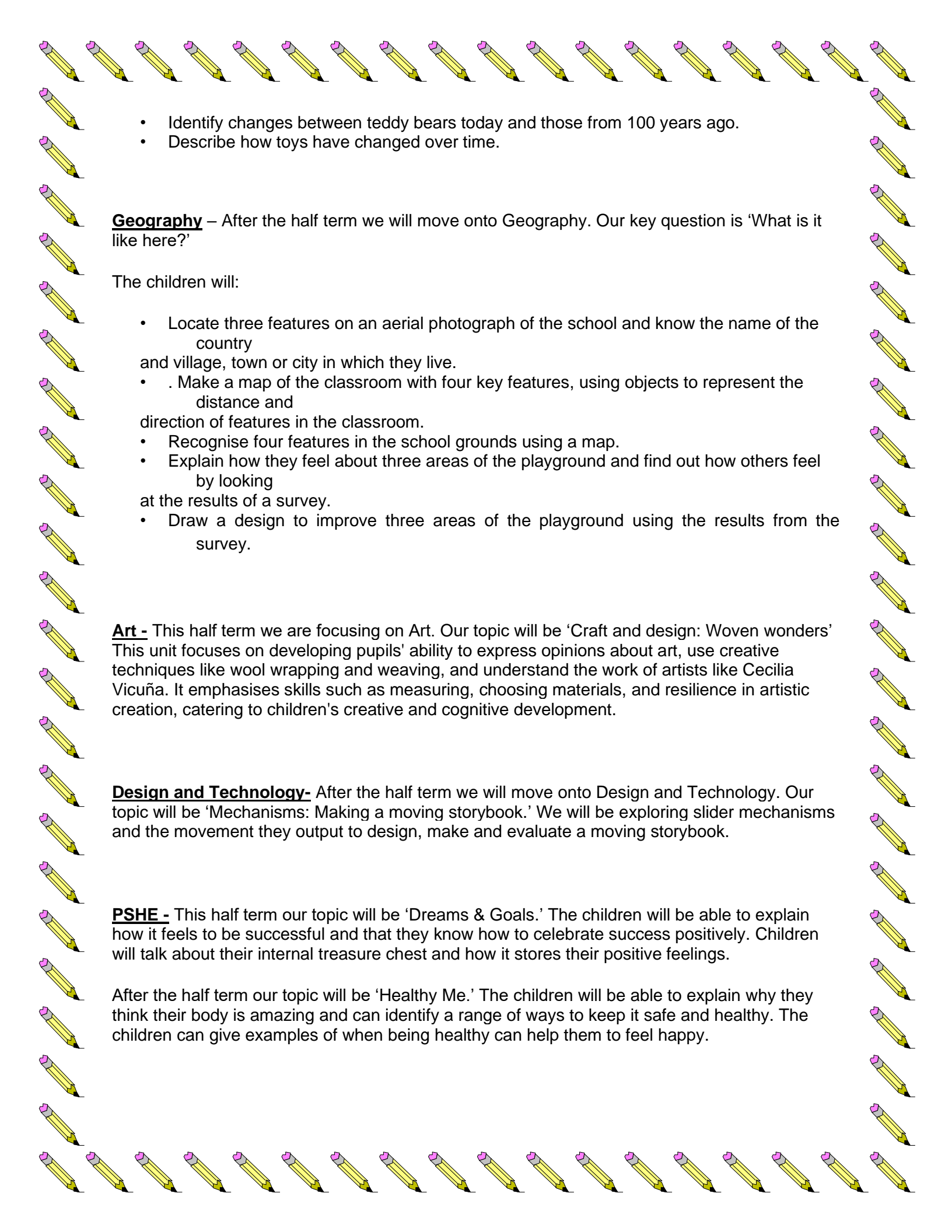
- Recognise cause and effect when pressing buttons on a virtual Bee-Bot.
- Discuss and demonstrate how the virtual Bee-Bot works.
- Record video, ensuring everyone is in the shot.
- Give several clear instructions in sequence.
- Program a virtual Bee-Bot to reach a destination.
- Identify and correct mistakes in their programming.

E-safety will be taught throughout each lesson.

**History** - This half term we are focusing on history and our key question is 'How have toys changed?'

The children will:

- Discuss their favourite toy using language related to the past.
- Ask questions about toys in the past.
- Make comparisons between toys in the past and present.
- Sequence artefacts from different periods of time.

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- Identify changes between teddy bears today and those from 100 years ago.
  - Describe how toys have changed over time.

**Geography** – After the half term we will move onto Geography. Our key question is ‘What is it like here?’

The children will:

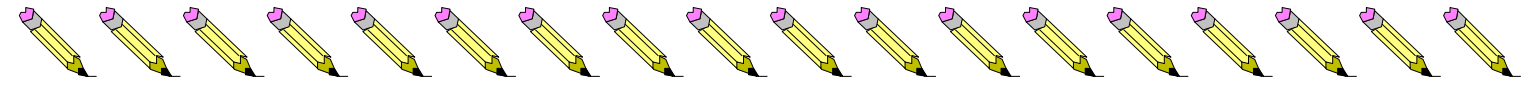
- Locate three features on an aerial photograph of the school and know the name of the country and village, town or city in which they live.
- . Make a map of the classroom with four key features, using objects to represent the distance and direction of features in the classroom.
- Recognise four features in the school grounds using a map.
- Explain how they feel about three areas of the playground and find out how others feel by looking at the results of a survey.
- Draw a design to improve three areas of the playground using the results from the survey.

**Art** - This half term we are focusing on Art. Our topic will be ‘Craft and design: Woven wonders’ This unit focuses on developing pupils' ability to express opinions about art, use creative techniques like wool wrapping and weaving, and understand the work of artists like Cecilia Vicuña. It emphasises skills such as measuring, choosing materials, and resilience in artistic creation, catering to children's creative and cognitive development.

**Design and Technology**- After the half term we will move onto Design and Technology. Our topic will be ‘Mechanisms: Making a moving storybook.’ We will be exploring slider mechanisms and the movement they output to design, make and evaluate a moving storybook.

**PSHE** - This half term our topic will be ‘Dreams & Goals.’ The children will be able to explain how it feels to be successful and that they know how to celebrate success positively. Children will talk about their internal treasure chest and how it stores their positive feelings.

After the half term our topic will be ‘Healthy Me.’ The children will be able to explain why they think their body is amazing and can identify a range of ways to keep it safe and healthy. The children can give examples of when being healthy can help them to feel happy.



**Music –** We have two different topics in Music this spring term. The first half is In The Groove by Joanna Mangona – an easy-to-learn song that demonstrates different styles of music. In The Groove is a song that was specially written for classroom use to teach us about different styles of music. This is a very easy song to learn and has been arranged in six different styles; Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk. Each week we will listen and learn a different style of In The Groove. We will also listen to a well known song in that weeks' style.

After half term all the learning is focused around one song: Round And Round, a Bossa Nova Latin style. The children will use pulse, rhythm and pitch in different styles of music.

**Organisation**

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled (including shoes) and that coats have a hook so that they can be hung on a peg.

Spellings will be sent home every Friday to be tested the following Friday. Please try and practice the spellings at home as often as possible.

PE days are on a **Monday** and **Wednesday** this term. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit worn to school on the day of their lesson. For outdoor PE they should wear trainers, a navy or royal blue tracksuit and fleece.

Your child's reading book will be changed once a week. Please read with them daily and record a comment in their reading journal.

Thank you for the continued support of your child at home; it is invaluable. Hearing them read regularly, practising their counting and number bonds, helping with weekly spellings and providing a quiet and calm environment for them to complete their homework helps to secure their progress and reinforces the work we do in class.

I have now updated our class page. We will update it a regularly as possible so that you are aware of what we are learning about in addition to providing a brief overview on the weekly newsletter sent out on a Friday.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Camadoo-Nynan or Miss Day.

Our class email address is [year1@stpauls373.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year1@stpauls373.herts.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

Mrs Camadoo-Nynan (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) and Miss Day (Monday & Tuesday)

