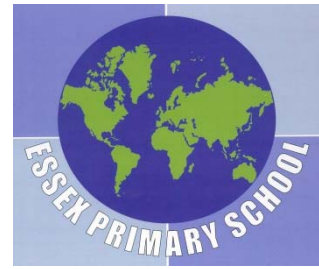


# Year 6 Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2016



Welcome back to school! We hope you had a fun-filled holiday, are well rested and ready for the term ahead. This half term is packed full with wonderful opportunities for our Year 6 children starting with a visit to Manor Park Library, the Fairplay House residential in Week 4, and an exciting Music Project celebrating Notting Hill Carnival in Week 7.

### Dates for your diary:

Fairplay House Residential: 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September

Assessment week: 19<sup>th</sup> September

Music Project: 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October

Half term: 27<sup>th</sup> Oct - 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### Homework

Homework in Year 6 is vitally important as it gives the children an opportunity to consolidate what they have learnt in school. During Year 6 the children are expected to be able to complete their homework independently in readiness for secondary school. Homework is handed out on Friday each week and includes English, Mathematics, Science and occasionally some topic work. It should be returned by the Wednesday the following week. The work must be completed to the best of their ability and we have high expectations with regards to the presentation of the work. Any children who are not able to hand their work in, or have not completed it to a satisfactory standard, will be expected to attend a homework catch-up session during Thursday break/lunchtime.

Good communication between home and school is vital for our children's well-being and development. Please feel free to give us some feedback on how your child coped with the level of challenge.

### **Reading**

At Essex Primary School, we encourage our children to have a passion for reading. Year 6 children should be extending their reading with high quality chapter books that widen their experience and knowledge of the world. We strongly encourage the children to become regular visitors to the local library as well as our own. As a guide, your children should be spending a good half-hour reading, perhaps before bedtime, every day. Your child will also have a reading comprehension questions to answer based on a short text.

### **Spellings**

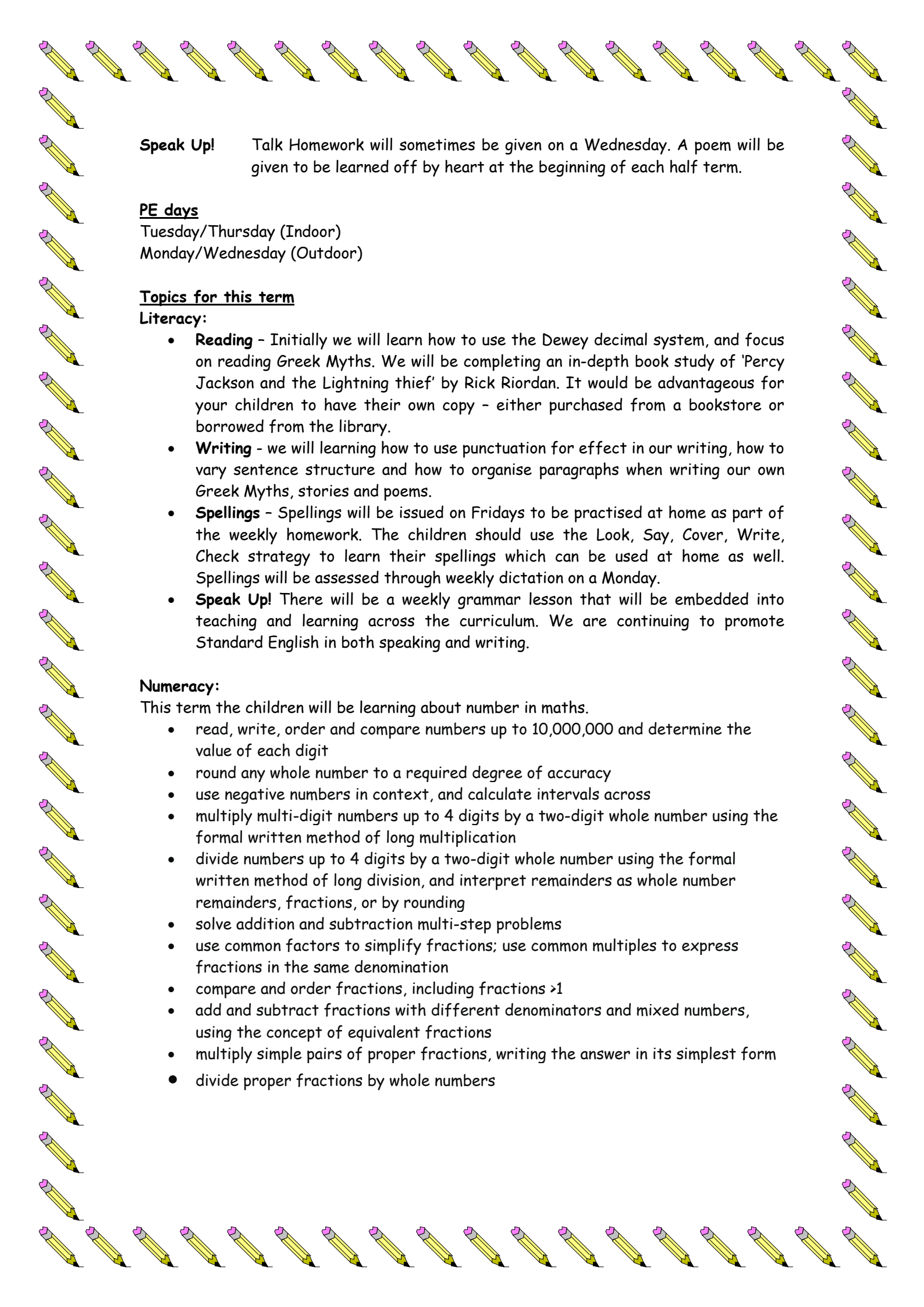
Weekly spellings should be practised at home in readiness for the dictation on a Friday. Ask your child to use the word in a sentence to check they understand its meaning.

### **English**

Grammar and punctuation homework will be provided every week.

### **Mathematics**

Activities are given based on the unit of work taught that week.



**Speak Up!** Talk Homework will sometimes be given on a Wednesday. A poem will be given to be learned off by heart at the beginning of each half term.

**PE days**

Tuesday/Thursday (Indoor)

Monday/Wednesday (Outdoor)

**Topics for this term**

**Literacy:**

- **Reading** - Initially we will learn how to use the Dewey decimal system, and focus on reading Greek Myths. We will be completing an in-depth book study of 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief' by Rick Riordan. It would be advantageous for your children to have their own copy - either purchased from a bookstore or borrowed from the library.
- **Writing** - we will learning how to use punctuation for effect in our writing, how to vary sentence structure and how to organise paragraphs when writing our own Greek Myths, stories and poems.
- **Spellings** - Spellings will be issued on Fridays to be practised at home as part of the weekly homework. The children should use the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check strategy to learn their spellings which can be used at home as well. Spellings will be assessed through weekly dictation on a Monday.
- **Speak Up!** There will be a weekly grammar lesson that will be embedded into teaching and learning across the curriculum. We are continuing to promote Standard English in both speaking and writing.

**Numeracy:**

This term the children will be learning about number in maths.

- read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10,000,000 and determine the value of each digit
- round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy
- use negative numbers in context, and calculate intervals across
- multiply multi-digit numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit whole number using the formal written method of long multiplication
- divide numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit whole number using the formal written method of long division, and interpret remainders as whole number remainders, fractions, or by rounding
- solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems
- use common factors to simplify fractions; use common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination
- compare and order fractions, including fractions  $>1$
- add and subtract fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions
- multiply simple pairs of proper fractions, writing the answer in its simplest form
- divide proper fractions by whole numbers



**Science:**

The children will learn about living things and their habitats so that they can:

- describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals
- give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics

**Geography & History:**

Children will explore the history of the ancient Greeks. They will discover how they lived and their impact on the world we live in today.

**Art:**

The children will create Greek temples using Design & Technology skills.

**PSHCE:**

The theme of 'New Beginnings ' offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals within a community, and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all. Throughout the theme children explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, while learning (and putting into practice) shared models for 'calming down' and 'problem solving'.

**Religious Education:**

How do people express their faith through the arts?

This unit focuses on some of the ways in which music, art and drama are used to express aspects of faith. The main focus is on Christianity and Islam, with reference to Hinduism. The unit provides opportunities for children to experience how certain art forms can be used to express feelings, emotions and intentions and to learn how these are used in a religious context to express faith.

**Websites to support learning at home:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient\\_greeks/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/)

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/Greece.html>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/index.html>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living\\_things/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in asking one of the Year 6 team of teachers: Mr Kelly (6K), Miss Smyth (6J), Miss Simmons (6S), Ms Musa (6M), Mrs Warne or Mrs Walsh.

We are very much looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Warm regards,

Mr F. Kelly

Year 6 Group Leader

Acting Assistant Head KS2

Essex Primary School