

*Year 6
2nd Half Spring Term 2020
Update*



February, 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a restful, relaxing and enjoyable half term. Included below is some general information about the coming second half of the Spring Term.

Classroom Climate:

We must stress that we will aim to continue promoting a calm, pleasant and enjoyable learning environment for all pupils. In addition, we will also continue to promote the well-being of our students and try to ensure that they feel safe and happy, both in themselves, and with those around them. This supports all the work we do with our important core values and prepares them for secondary school. As always, if there is anything we need to be aware of or follow up, please do get in touch.

Homework:

Following meetings with all teaching staff, a Parents Forum and in response to the findings from the Parent Questionnaire 2019, our policy on homework has changed. Homework will focus on basic skills that need lots of practice to become embedded such as reading, spelling and maths/number fluency. In addition, we will also promote children's interests through self-study opportunities so they can extend their own learning.

Homework is now set using three main headings:

Must: Homework that must be completed each day or week.

Should: Homework that should be completed.

Could: Optional homework that the child may or may not wish to complete. These will often be suggestions for self-study from a list of possible options, perhaps related to a class topic.

In Year 6, homework should take no longer than 20 minutes per day, although there may need to be a little flexibility in this occasionally. This time does not include the time it takes to read a story to a child which may take much longer! As children become more confident readers, they may wish to read for much longer than 15-20 minutes, and this is to be encouraged! A timetable should hopefully make things clear below.

	Homework
Must	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily reading.• Weekly spelling.• Weekly maths fluency.
Should	2x individual study pieces of learning per half term from a range of options.
Could	Another self-study piece.
Homework records	Y6 Homework diary and reading diary.

The timetable looks like this:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading. • Maths Fluency (for Thursday). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading. • Spellings. 			

All students will continue to have a homework diary and reading record which we ask you sign off each evening.

Curriculum Updates

Curriculum information below will hopefully give an overview of the learning taking place throughout the half term.

English:

During this half term, we will be focussing on the following:

Reading:

We will be reading both fiction and non-fiction texts and accurately retrieving information. All involve both written and verbal responses where children will have to answer literal as well as inferential and deductive questions, providing detail to their responses. Most important is supporting your child's reading as much as possible by hearing them read and by sharing and enjoying books together. Please ensure that your children are reading for up to 20 minutes daily at home, preferably aloud to you on some occasions.

We will also continue to develop the skills of predicting, summarising, questioning and clarifying.

Writing:

The children really enjoyed our book study on 'Holes' which provided lots of worthwhile writing outcomes. This coming half term, we will continue to develop their writing but through a different book study, namely, 'Moth', which is a fascinating book and, if time, a further book entitled 'The Wonder Garden'.

Moth (Narrative). Through the book, we will be learning to:

- Look at how books are structured in a range of different ways to meet purpose.
- Asking questions to improve their understanding.
- Summarising the information presented.
- To use a range of literary devices, eg) metaphors, alliteration, hyphens etc.
- Plan from reading and research.
- Using a range of devices to build cohesion across paragraphs.
- To write a recount.
- To write an extended story.
- Assessing the effectiveness of own and others writing.

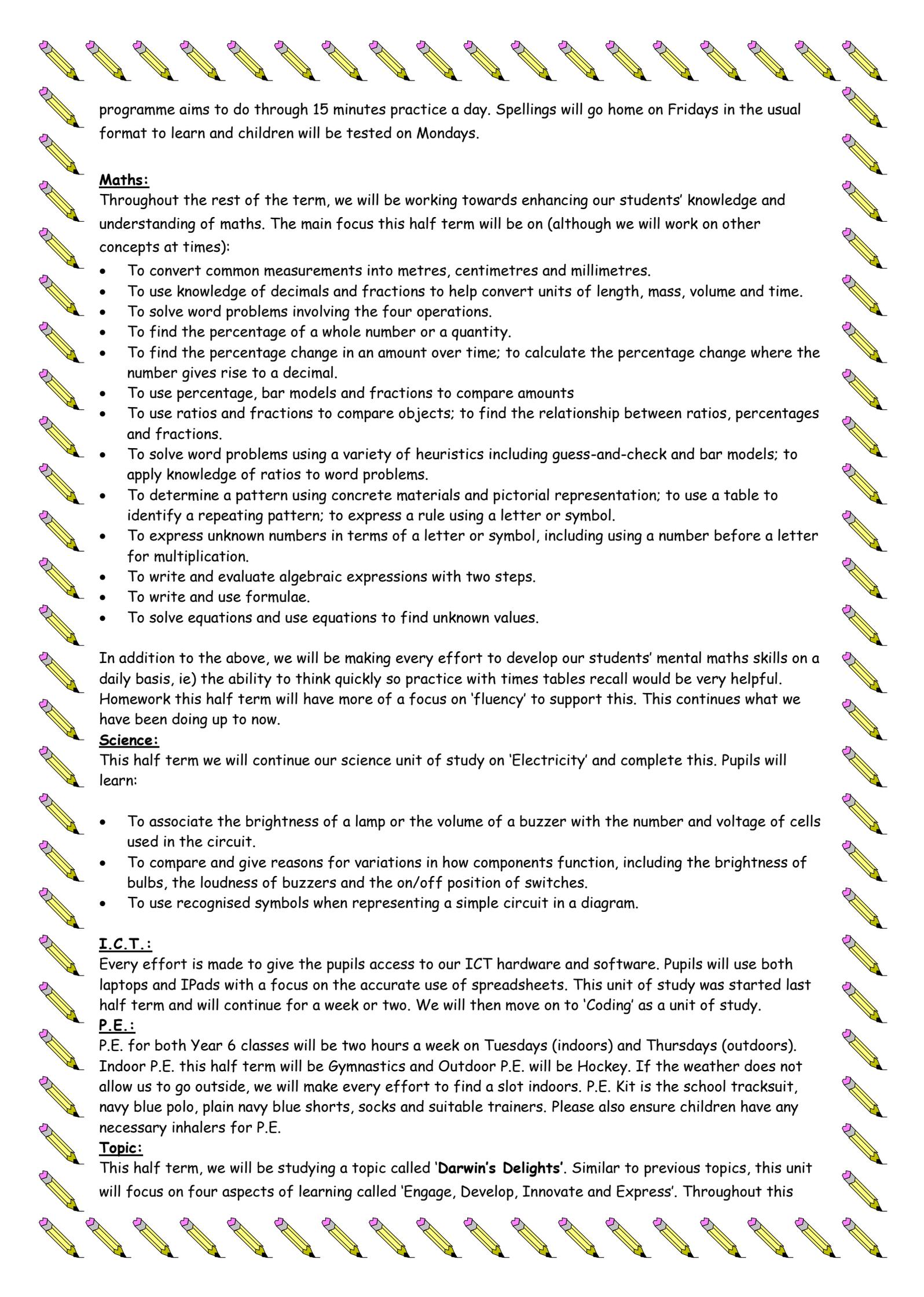
Through the above, we will also continue to focus our attention on better sentence construction, correct grammar and accurate punctuation.

Handwriting:

As a school, we have recently introduced a new handwriting scheme called 'Teach Handwriting' (www.teachhandwriting.co.uk) which we will be following. It has useful parental tips on the subject and is well worth a look.

Spelling:

The school has also introduced a new spelling programme called 'Read, Write, Inc Spelling'. It is a robust, fast-paced spelling programme. It is only with lots of practice that we become good spellers which this



programme aims to do through 15 minutes practice a day. Spellings will go home on Fridays in the usual format to learn and children will be tested on Mondays.

Maths:

Throughout the rest of the term, we will be working towards enhancing our students' knowledge and understanding of maths. The main focus this half term will be on (although we will work on other concepts at times):

- To convert common measurements into metres, centimetres and millimetres.
- To use knowledge of decimals and fractions to help convert units of length, mass, volume and time.
- To solve word problems involving the four operations.
- To find the percentage of a whole number or a quantity.
- To find the percentage change in an amount over time; to calculate the percentage change where the number gives rise to a decimal.
- To use percentage, bar models and fractions to compare amounts
- To use ratios and fractions to compare objects; to find the relationship between ratios, percentages and fractions.
- To solve word problems using a variety of heuristics including guess-and-check and bar models; to apply knowledge of ratios to word problems.
- To determine a pattern using concrete materials and pictorial representation; to use a table to identify a repeating pattern; to express a rule using a letter or symbol.
- To express unknown numbers in terms of a letter or symbol, including using a number before a letter for multiplication.
- To write and evaluate algebraic expressions with two steps.
- To write and use formulae.
- To solve equations and use equations to find unknown values.

In addition to the above, we will be making every effort to develop our students' mental maths skills on a daily basis, ie) the ability to think quickly so practice with times tables recall would be very helpful. Homework this half term will have more of a focus on 'fluency' to support this. This continues what we have been doing up to now.

Science:

This half term we will continue our science unit of study on 'Electricity' and complete this. Pupils will learn:

- To associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit.
- To compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches.
- To use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

I.C.T.:

Every effort is made to give the pupils access to our ICT hardware and software. Pupils will use both laptops and iPads with a focus on the accurate use of spreadsheets. This unit of study was started last half term and will continue for a week or two. We will then move on to 'Coding' as a unit of study.

P.E.:

P.E. for both Year 6 classes will be two hours a week on Tuesdays (indoors) and Thursdays (outdoors). Indoor P.E. this half term will be Gymnastics and Outdoor P.E. will be Hockey. If the weather does not allow us to go outside, we will make every effort to find a slot indoors. P.E. Kit is the school tracksuit, navy blue polo, plain navy blue shorts, socks and suitable trainers. Please also ensure children have any necessary inhalers for P.E.

Topic:

This half term, we will be studying a topic called '**Darwin's Delights**'. Similar to previous topics, this unit will focus on four aspects of learning called 'Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express'. Throughout this



unit, we will be developing the students' science skills, art skills, DT skills and spoken language in a cross-curricular way. The children will learn to:

- Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.
- Create, from memory, a timeline from dates / details / eras showing knowledge of Charles Darwin and his life.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries on Darwin's travels.
- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
- Complete a study of the Galapagos Islands.
- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- Investigate endangered species and what is causing them to be endangered.
- Debate a topical issue that relates to inheritance and evolution, such as artificial selection, genetic cloning or genetic engineering.

RE:

This half-term, we will revisit Easter and the Easter Story. In addition, we will complete a unit of study on 'Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?' In particular, we will think about:

- Do sacred texts have to be 'true' to help people understand their religion?
- Does participating in worship help people to feel closer to God or their faith community?
- Is religion the most important influence and inspiration in everyone's life?

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Education):

- In our Jigsaw PSHE sessions, our focus this half term is about 'Healthy Me', thinking about the impact food, drugs and alcohol can have on the human body. We will discuss emergency aid procedures, understand what it means to be emotionally well and how we can manage stress and pressure better.

Music:

In music this half term we will be starting to practice songs for our upcoming 'Liberation' celebrations. In addition, we will complete a unit of study called 'You've Got A Friend'.

French:

Mrs Surcouf will continue with French this half term and build on the progress made so far this year.

Key Stage 2 Tests:

The pupils will be sitting their Key Stage 2 tests in May, as will all Year 6 pupils in Jersey and up and down the country. Whilst we do not teach to the tests, we will be going through practice questions so that our pupils are comfortable with the tests and what is expected of them. If you wish to be aware of the types of questions the pupils will be expected to answer, there are some links below which you may find useful.

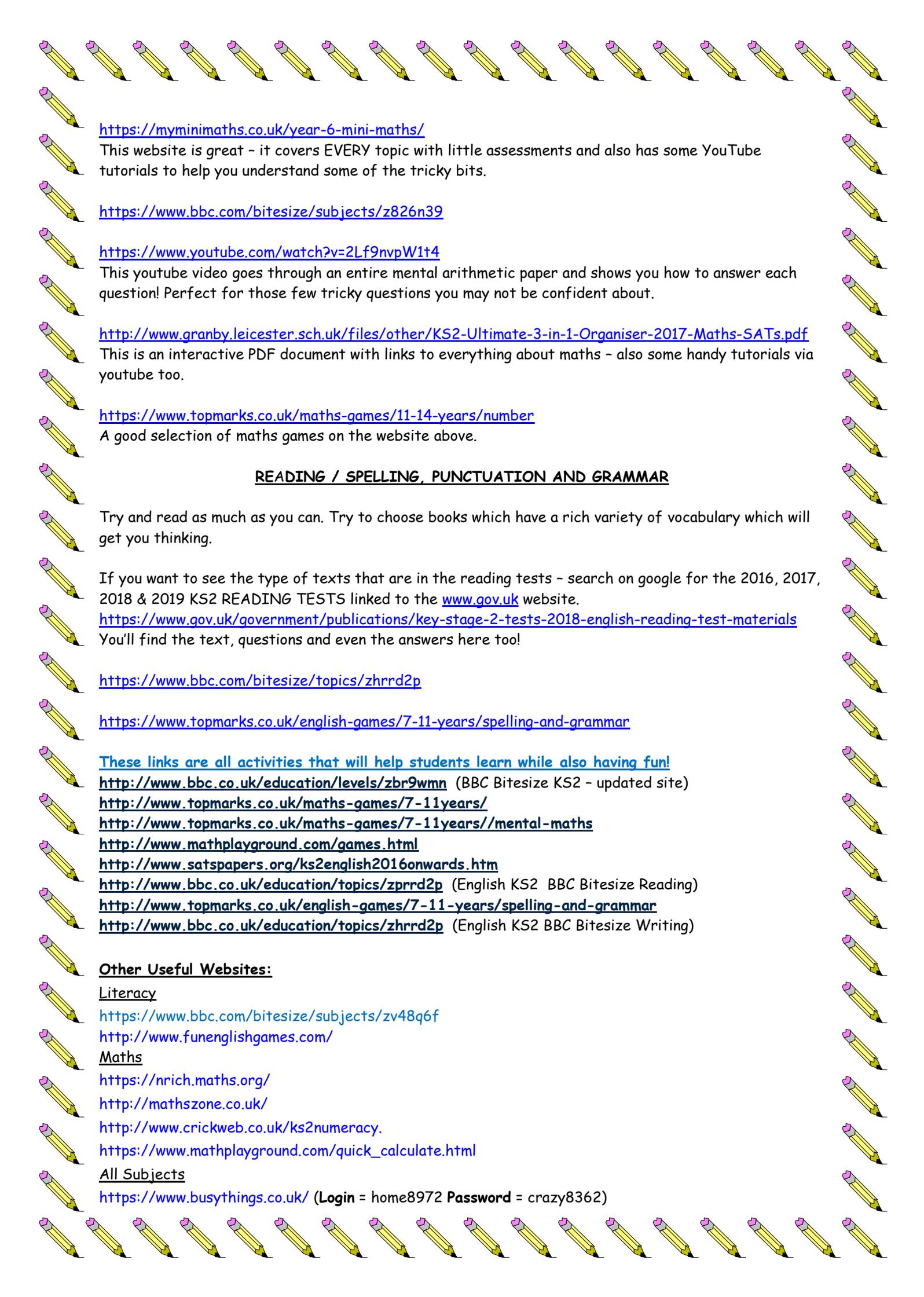
<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources/primary-national-tests/ks2-sats>

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources/blog/top-10-sats-resources-year-6>

To access the two links above, you will need to set yourself up for free on your own.

Additional Useful Websites:

MATHS



<https://myminimaths.co.uk/year-6-mini-maths/>

This website is great - it covers EVERY topic with little assessments and also has some YouTube tutorials to help you understand some of the tricky bits.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z826n39>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Lf9nvpW1t4>

This youtube video goes through an entire mental arithmetic paper and shows you how to answer each question! Perfect for those few tricky questions you may not be confident about.

<http://www.granby.leicester.sch.uk/files/other/KS2-Ultimate-3-in-1-Organiser-2017-Maths-SATs.pdf>

This is an interactive PDF document with links to everything about maths - also some handy tutorials via youtube too.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/11-14-years/number>

A good selection of maths games on the website above.

READING / SPELLING, PUNCTUATION AND GRAMMAR

Try and read as much as you can. Try to choose books which have a rich variety of vocabulary which will get you thinking.

If you want to see the type of texts that are in the reading tests - search on google for the 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019 KS2 READING TESTS linked to the www.gov.uk website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-2018-english-reading-test-materials>

You'll find the text, questions and even the answers here too!

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zhrrd2p>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

[These links are all activities that will help students learn while also having fun!](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/zbr9wmn> (BBC Bitesize KS2 - updated site)

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11years/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11years//mental-maths>

<http://www.mathplayground.com/games.html>

<http://www.satspapers.org/ks2english2016onwards.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zprrd2p> (English KS2 BBC Bitesize Reading)

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zhrrd2p> (English KS2 BBC Bitesize Writing)

Other Useful Websites:

Literacy

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f>

<http://www.funenglishgames.com/>

Maths

<https://nrich.maths.org/>

<http://mathszone.co.uk/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy>

https://www.mathplayground.com/quick_calculate.html

All Subjects

<https://www.busythings.co.uk/> (Login = home8972 Password = crazy8362)

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 25 th February	Parental Consultations.
Thursday 27 th February	Parental Consultations.
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day.
Friday 6 th March	Year Group trip to the zoo (linked to our topic).
Friday 13 th March	Sports Relief.
Friday 13 th March	Swimarathon.
Wednesday 1 st April	Sponsored Walk.
Friday 3 rd April	End of Term.

Parental Help:

We are as ever, very reliant on your support both at home and in school. If you would like to offer your valuable support on school trips, please let us know.

Finally:

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, do please get in touch. Our contact details are identified below.

Many thanks,

Mr Steigenberger (m.steigenberger@lamoye.sch.je)

Mr Walters (r.walters@lamoye.sch.je)