

CLASS THREE LETTER - SUMMER 2018

Dear Class Three families,

In my role as class three teacher and deputy head teacher of Burley Gate school, I continue to be delighted with, and extremely proud of the way in which our children behave, and care for each other both in the school environment and elsewhere.

During our recent visit to the Malvern Theatre to see 'The Jungle Book', class three children were an absolute joy to be with. They were polite and friendly, completely enthralled and smiling with happiness throughout. Similarly, our whole school visit to Bristol Zoo last week was a tremendous success. Every child, from Reception to year 6, thoroughly enjoyed the day. All classes behaved in exemplary fashion during our educational workshops, asking and answering questions enthusiastically and demonstrating the intellectual curiosity of those who love learning (especially about animals!). The educators complimented the children on their levels of interest and interaction during their lessons. Thank you very much to members of The PFA who financed this trip for the children. Well done all!

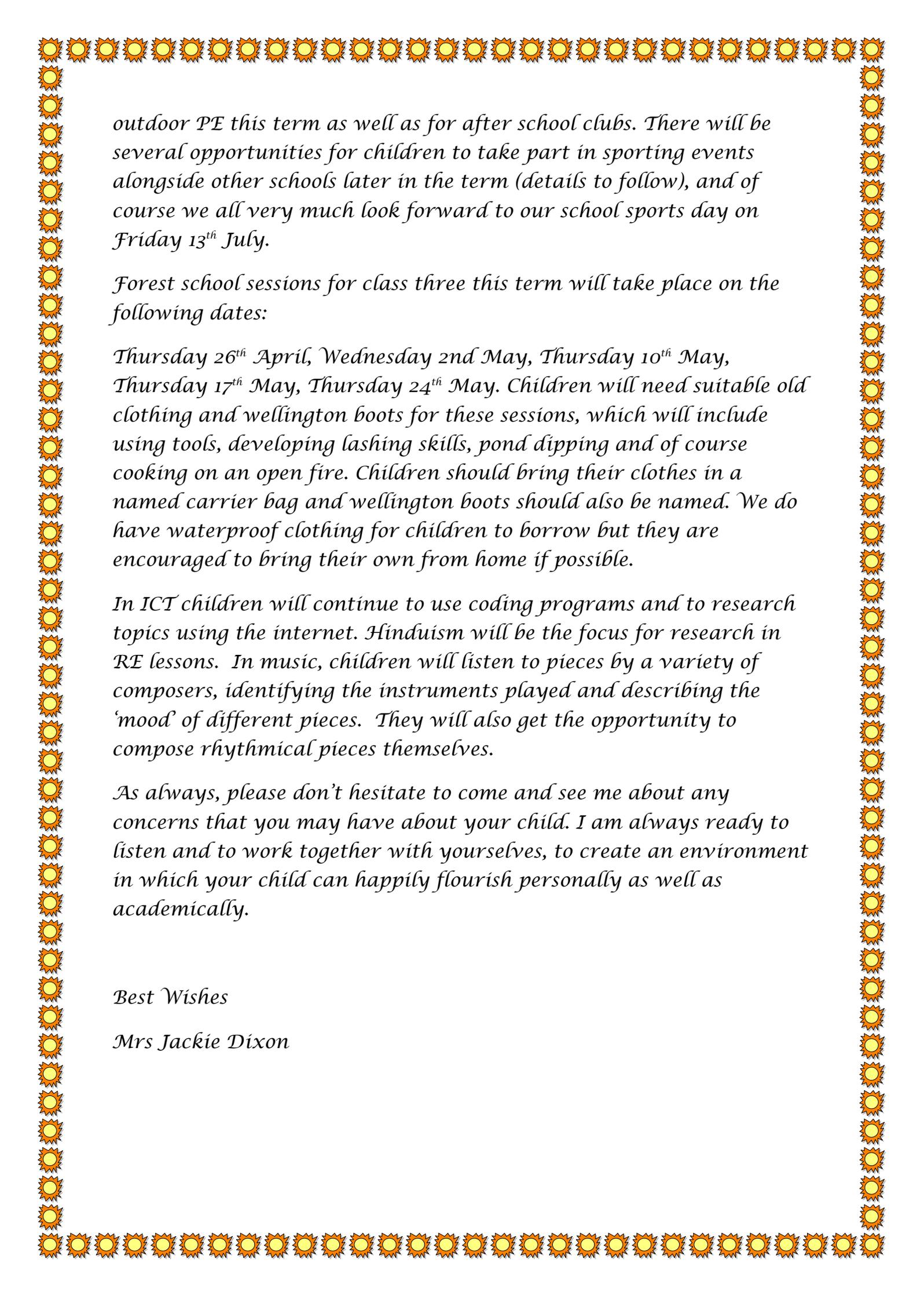
I'm sure that we can keep this positivity going as we begin our final term of this school year. I am delighted to be re-joined by Miss Quigley who will complete her PGCE course with us this term and also by Mr Taylor, who continues the second year of his teaching degree. Both students are already proving to be a real asset, delivering both consolidation and extension activities for the different groups of children in our class. Mentored by myself, they will teach units of work in History and Science as well as core subjects. Indeed, the children have already been introduced to our History topic of Invaders and Settlers, taking a look at how the Vikings dressed, lived and behaved. Further activities will include designing and making Viking shields. Later in the term, it is hoped that we will also take a close look at the wonderful artwork: the Bayeux Tapestry, depicting the Norman Conquest. Obvious links will be made here to European Geography using maps to identify different continents.



*In SPAG and English lessons this term children will be concentrating on developing their creative use of language. SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) lessons will consist of consolidating and developing understanding of word classes, sentence structure and forms of punctuation such as commas, apostrophes and speech marks. This will lead into writing detailed narratives and poetry on a variety of topics, often linked to work in Science and History. Science this term will include work on 'living things' as we explore 'forest school' and our wonderfully revamped pond area. Pond dipping is always a highlight of the summer term and I know that we are in for some wonderful discoveries on Thursday afternoon! Miss Quigley will then be introducing the topic of 'Forces and Magnetism', with many exciting investigations planned.*

*Mathematics lessons will focus largely on developing the children's understanding of the four operations (+, -, ×, ÷), through mental as well as written calculations. They will be investigating numbers and solving problems using their knowledge of times tables. Children in year 3 are aiming for fluency in their recall of the 3, 6, 4 and 8 times tables as well as the 2s, 5s and 10s. A typical investigation would be:  $5 \times 6 = 3 \times 10$ , 'convince me that this is true'. Children would be asked to explain how they know that this is true, using their knowledge of times tables, doubling/halving etc. Children in year 4 should be working towards a complete knowledge of all of their times tables, up to 12s. Children will also consolidate knowledge of fractions and decimals as well as measurement (weight, capacity and time) and aspects of geometry such as 3D shape and co-ordinates.*

*As I have stated in many class letters over the years, the summer term is my favourite! Partly due to the time we are able spend on outdoor learning, either on the school playground and field, playing cricket, tennis and rounders, honing our athletic talents, or exploring the delights of our forest school area. Children will continue to take part in games skills with our sports coach Adri on Thursday mornings. They will also be further developing skills of agility, balance and co-ordination in our Real PE sessions on Tuesday mornings. Please ensure that children have fully labelled PE kit in school at all times. A well-fitting pair of pumps or trainers is essential for our*



*outdoor PE this term as well as for after school clubs. There will be several opportunities for children to take part in sporting events alongside other schools later in the term (details to follow), and of course we all very much look forward to our school sports day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July.*

*Forest school sessions for class three this term will take place on the following dates:*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April, Wednesday 2nd May, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Children will need suitable old clothing and wellington boots for these sessions, which will include using tools, developing lashing skills, pond dipping and of course cooking on an open fire. Children should bring their clothes in a named carrier bag and wellington boots should also be named. We do have waterproof clothing for children to borrow but they are encouraged to bring their own from home if possible.*

*In ICT children will continue to use coding programs and to research topics using the internet. Hinduism will be the focus for research in RE lessons. In music, children will listen to pieces by a variety of composers, identifying the instruments played and describing the 'mood' of different pieces. They will also get the opportunity to compose rhythmical pieces themselves.*

*As always, please don't hesitate to come and see me about any concerns that you may have about your child. I am always ready to listen and to work together with yourselves, to create an environment in which your child can happily flourish personally as well as academically.*

*Best Wishes*

*Mrs Jackie Dixon*