

Year 2 Newsletter

Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents,

We would all like to thank you for your very thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts at the end of the last half term. We were touched by your generosity and kindness.

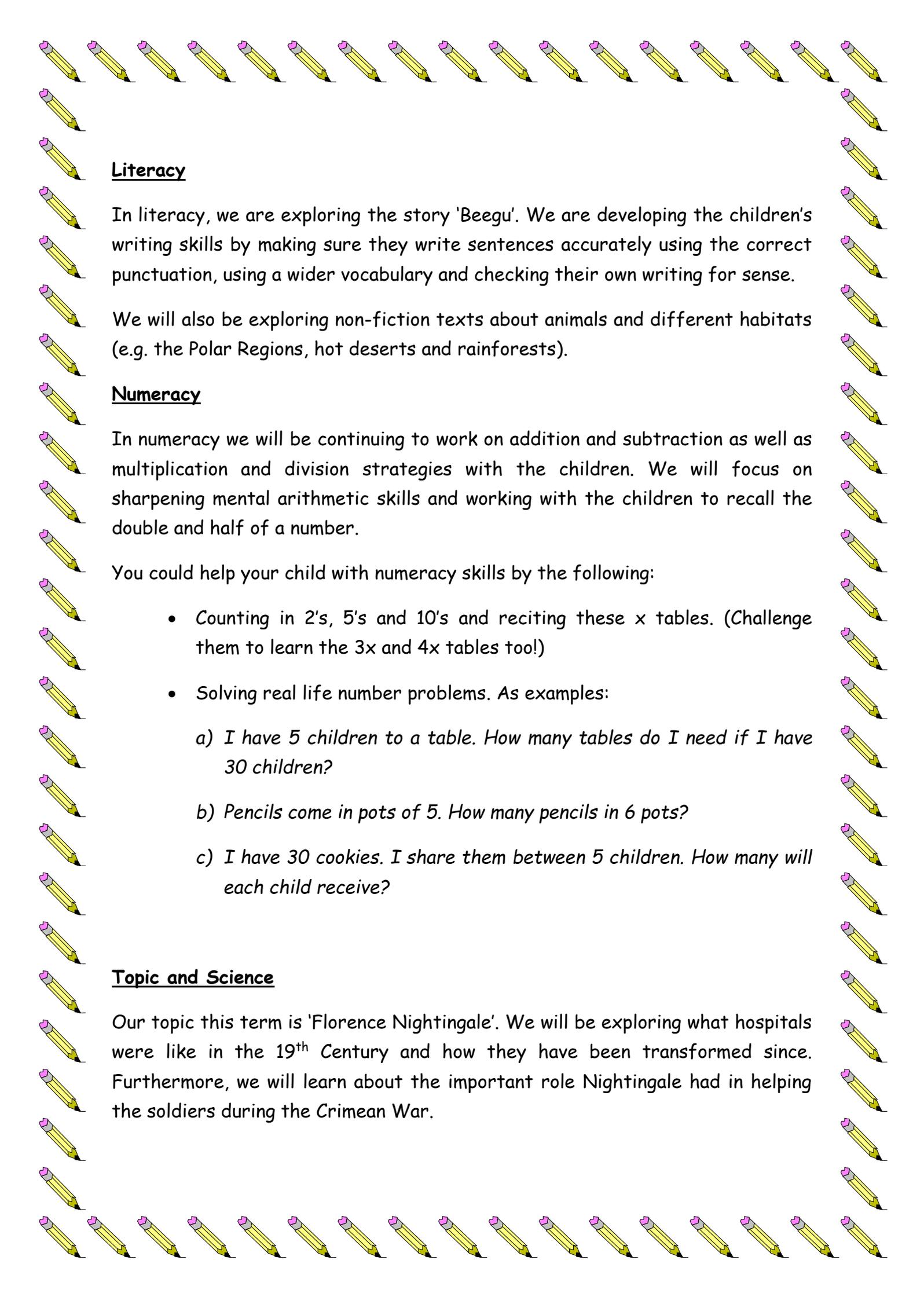
This newsletter will give you information about some of the things that your child will be learning about in the first half of this Spring Term. We hope that you find it helpful but please do not hesitate to ask throughout the year if you ever have any concerns or questions.

Religion Topic

Our new topic is called, 'People of Prayer'. Our new topic focuses on the prayer life of the Church. Children will be learning about the Feast of the Epiphany and two prayers found in Matthew's Gospel: the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer.

Reading

We are continuing with our reading programme in school helping the children to develop reading strategies as well as further developing the important skill of reading with comprehension. We would like to stress again that we do not ask the children to read anymore than a few pages a night, not a whole book. It is more beneficial to choose one of the reading activities alongside ten minutes of reading every evening. Please use the reading record to communicate how your child is getting on and any information that you feel we should know. We will be making comments in this book as a way of communicating with you about the progress of your child's reading. When we feel it is appropriate for your child to move to another band we will inform you through the reading record. A thesaurus and dictionary is always helpful to develop the children's vocabulary.



Literacy

In literacy, we are exploring the story 'Beegu'. We are developing the children's writing skills by making sure they write sentences accurately using the correct punctuation, using a wider vocabulary and checking their own writing for sense.

We will also be exploring non-fiction texts about animals and different habitats (e.g. the Polar Regions, hot deserts and rainforests).

Numeracy

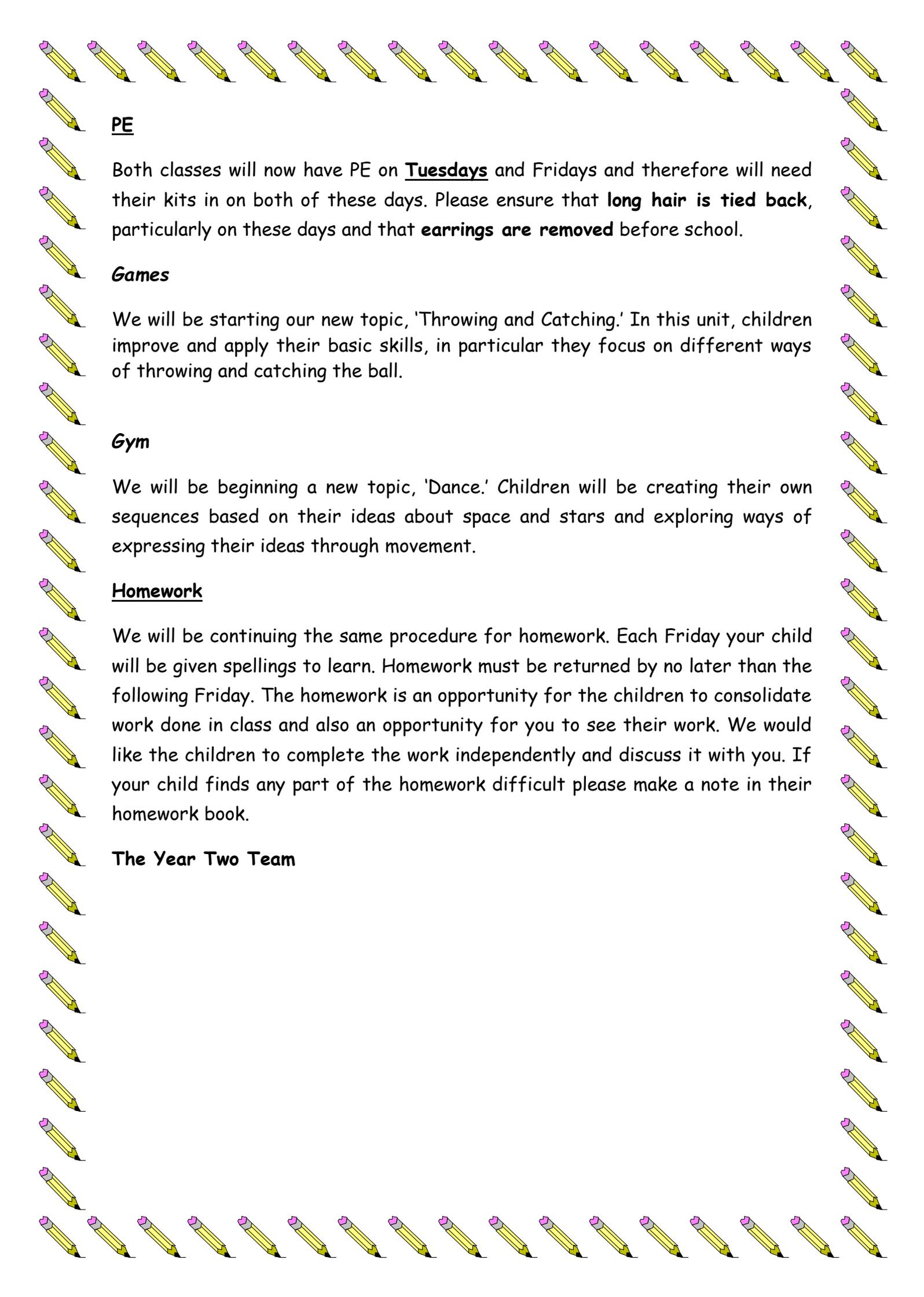
In numeracy we will be continuing to work on addition and subtraction as well as multiplication and division strategies with the children. We will focus on sharpening mental arithmetic skills and working with the children to recall the double and half of a number.

You could help your child with numeracy skills by the following:

- Counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and reciting these x tables. (Challenge them to learn the 3x and 4x tables too!)
- Solving real life number problems. As examples:
 - a) *I have 5 children to a table. How many tables do I need if I have 30 children?*
 - b) *Pencils come in pots of 5. How many pencils in 6 pots?*
 - c) *I have 30 cookies. I share them between 5 children. How many will each child receive?*

Topic and Science

Our topic this term is 'Florence Nightingale'. We will be exploring what hospitals were like in the 19th Century and how they have been transformed since. Furthermore, we will learn about the important role Nightingale had in helping the soldiers during the Crimean War.



PE

Both classes will now have PE on Tuesdays and Fridays and therefore will need their kits in on both of these days. Please ensure that **long hair is tied back**, particularly on these days and that **earrings are removed** before school.

Games

We will be starting our new topic, 'Throwing and Catching.' In this unit, children improve and apply their basic skills, in particular they focus on different ways of throwing and catching the ball.

Gym

We will be beginning a new topic, 'Dance.' Children will be creating their own sequences based on their ideas about space and stars and exploring ways of expressing their ideas through movement.

Homework

We will be continuing the same procedure for homework. Each Friday your child will be given spellings to learn. Homework must be returned by no later than the following Friday. The homework is an opportunity for the children to consolidate work done in class and also an opportunity for you to see their work. We would like the children to complete the work independently and discuss it with you. If your child finds any part of the homework difficult please make a note in their homework book.

The Year Two Team