

# Beech Class Autumn 1 Newsletter

We have had a **wonderful** start to year 5. I am delighted to see your children being so **polite, engaged** with their learning and trying their best in every aspect of school life. They have adapted very quickly to our new routines and are **conscientious** about keeping themselves and others safe. You clearly did a **great job** with them at home during lockdown - thank you.



Thank you to those who have managed to get onto Class Dojo, if you want any help please let me know and I can call you to talk you through it. It is vital you are on there, in-case you have to isolate as a family as that is where work will be set for your child to complete.

## Heritage Month

To celebrate our first Heritage Month at Newington, our class were so generous in sharing their families rich heritage with the rest of us. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many parents getting involved. Scones, cupcakes and Cornish Fairings – what's not to enjoy?

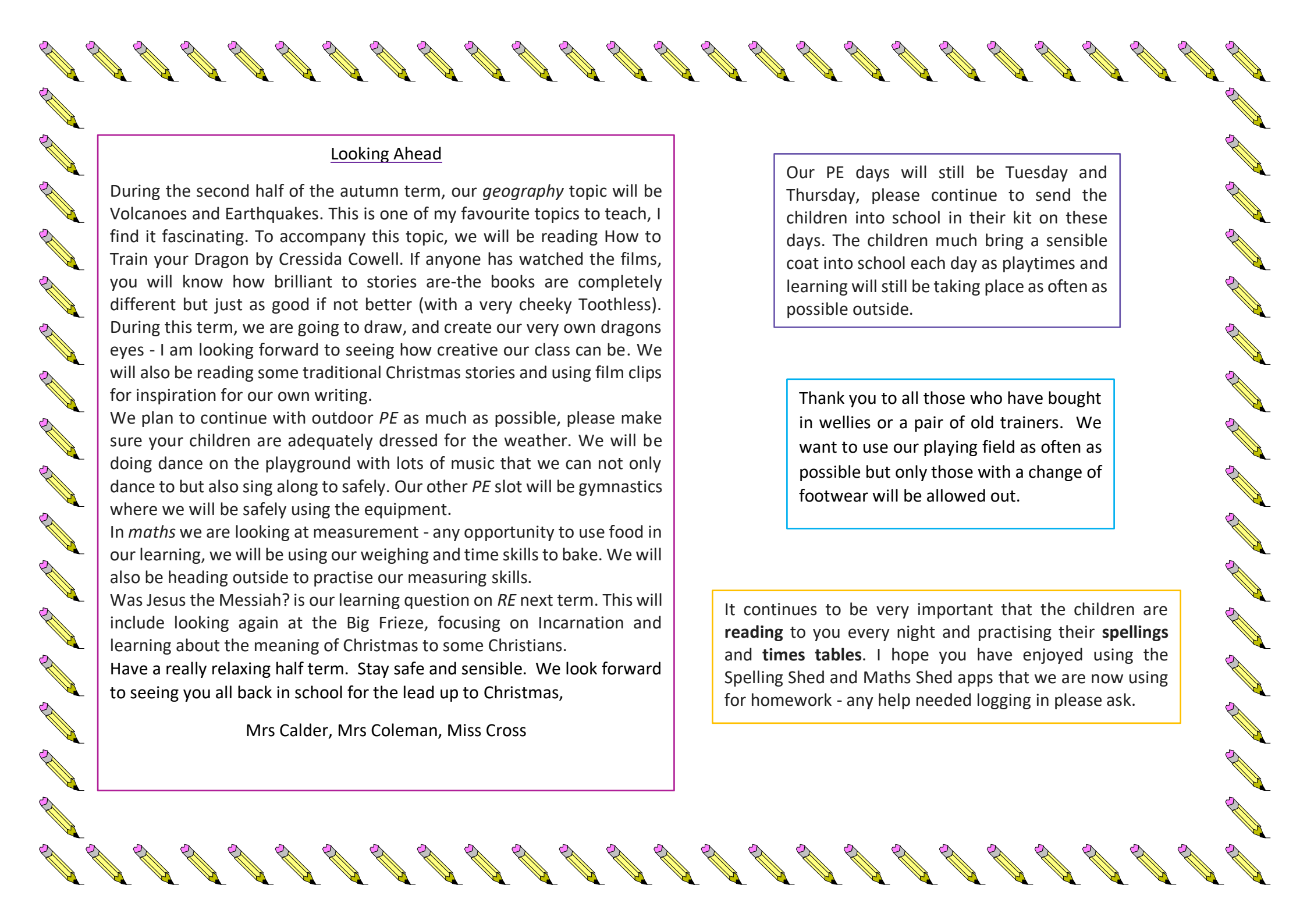
We have enjoyed so many of our lessons outside this term and managed to incorporate art into all our learning. Every week we have been into our school's woodland and had our *PSHE* lessons sitting on logs, with the sway of trees and the sound of nature all around us. It has been a magical experience and we are very lucky to have this space to use. Please continue to send your children into school with suitable footwear on Fridays; and as the weather gets colder and wetter, they are welcome to bring in waterproofs (though it is well covered under the trees).

We have learnt so much in our *science* topic about Forces through doing experiments. The children have been very sensible whilst doing these, which has meant we have had more opportunities to learn in this way. Thank you for any resources that were sent in, they helped a lot.

Whilst learning about the *Ancient Greeks*, we enjoyed creating our own menus, making a meal and then eating it! It is lovely that so many children were keen to try something new. Surprisingly, there were not that many screwed up faces when presented with olives.

The children have been very lucky to have weekly *music* lessons with Miss Cross and *ICT* with Mrs Coleman, after such a long break from school we have finally all remembered how to log in to the computers now!

As always in *Maths* we have started the year refreshing our knowledge on place value. In *English*, we have been using the book *Who Let The Gods Out* by Maz Evans. The children were hooked from the first chapter, with lots of groans each time I had to stop. Their enjoyment for reading is so refreshing and encouraging to see and must continue to be encouraged and promoted at home as well as at school.



### Looking Ahead

During the second half of the autumn term, our *geography* topic will be Volcanoes and Earthquakes. This is one of my favourite topics to teach, I find it fascinating. To accompany this topic, we will be reading *How to Train your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell. If anyone has watched the films, you will know how brilliant the stories are - the books are completely different but just as good if not better (with a very cheeky Toothless). During this term, we are going to draw, and create our very own dragons eyes - I am looking forward to seeing how creative our class can be. We will also be reading some traditional Christmas stories and using film clips for inspiration for our own writing.

We plan to continue with outdoor *PE* as much as possible, please make sure your children are adequately dressed for the weather. We will be doing dance on the playground with lots of music that we can not only dance to but also sing along to safely. Our other *PE* slot will be gymnastics where we will be safely using the equipment.

In *maths* we are looking at measurement - any opportunity to use food in our learning, we will be using our weighing and time skills to bake. We will also be heading outside to practise our measuring skills.

Was Jesus the Messiah? is our learning question on *RE* next term. This will include looking again at the Big Frieze, focusing on Incarnation and learning about the meaning of Christmas to some Christians.

Have a really relaxing half term. Stay safe and sensible. We look forward to seeing you all back in school for the lead up to Christmas,

Mrs Calder, Mrs Coleman, Miss Cross

Our *PE* days will still be Tuesday and Thursday, please continue to send the children into school in their kit on these days. The children must bring a sensible coat into school each day as playtimes and learning will still be taking place as often as possible outside.

Thank you to all those who have bought in wellies or a pair of old trainers. We want to use our playing field as often as possible but only those with a change of footwear will be allowed out.

It continues to be very important that the children are **reading** to you every night and practising their **spellings** and **times tables**. I hope you have enjoyed using the Spelling Shed and Maths Shed apps that we are now using for homework - any help needed logging in please ask.