



September
2026

Meet the
Teachers

Our Values

Ethos: learning and growing together.



Our Values Kindness

Kindness is a high moral standard. We support our pupils in understanding the impact our words and actions have on others, the community around us and the world we live in.

Health

We will promote a healthy lifestyle, including the importance of physical activities, mental health, healthy eating and healthy relationships. Teaching pupils to assess risks, to reduce the potential of harm to themselves or others and in doing so develop a strong self-esteem and a sense of purpose.

Respect

We recognise and respect differences in race, religion, disability, physical appearance, ability and gender. We treat everybody the same, regardless of these differences. We have respect for ourselves and each other. We respect the property of others and our environment.

Courage

We will encourage children to have a voice and to be confident in their own opinions. We want our pupils to have the confidence to face different situations with feelings of ease, believing in our own capabilities.

Meet the team

Goldcrests



Mrs Tarousa



Mrs Martin

Firecrests



Miss Panteli



Miss Adamonis

The background features a large orange trapezoidal shape on the right side. In the top left, there is a blue banner with the word 'Communication'. Two pencils are visible: an orange one at the top center pointing downwards, and a red one at the bottom left pointing rightwards. The word 'Communication' is written in white on the blue banner.

Communication

Speak to your class teacher.

Home time is the best time.

Email or call the office.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call or email the school in the morning. If you have a query about anything on Arbor, please speak to the office.

Picking up:

Please let your class teacher OR the office know of any changes to pick up arrangements. We can't let your child go with someone different unless we have been informed.

You may send information by email to admin@belswains.herts.sch.uk

Permission for people who regularly collect your child, such as other family members, can be given on Arbor. If these people then come to collect, we do not need prior warning.



Daily Routines

- 8.40am: Busy fingers/Morning work/Zones of Regulation Registration
- 9.00am: English (Some days we have assemblies)
- 10.10am: Snack
- 10.15am: Break Time
- 10.30-11.15am: Phonics/Spelling programme and Reading
- 11.15 – 12.15pm: Maths/ Explore Time
- 12.15 - 1.15pm: Lunch
- 1.15pm - 3.05pm: Other subjects/ Explore Time
- 2.00pm – 2.10pm: Playtime
- 3.05pm: Story
- 3.15pm: Home



Wellbeing

- They choose their zone in the morning
- Adults check in

The **ZONES** of Regulation™

			
BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
Sad Tired Sick Lonely Bored	Happy Excited Ready to learn Proud Cheerful	Frustrated Wiggly Worried Anxious	Angry Scared Out of control Hurt Grumpy

Clubs

Keep an eye out for the emails telling you about clubs.
Sign up is on Arbor.

If your child has a 'sports' club they will need to be in PE kit. If it is a PE day, they will not need to get changed. Any other day, please bring named kit in a bag to change into.



Uniform

Please ensure names are in everything!

School Uniform

We expect all children to wear school uniform: looking neat and tidy and taking pride in their appearance. Parents/ Carers are asked to support the school's uniform policy by providing the correct uniform and encouraging children to look after it. We also request that you label all items.

Toys should not be brought into school!

Our Uniform

- White polo shirt or shirt
- Red cardigan, sweatshirt or jumper.
- Grey or black skirt or pinafore
- Grey or black tailored trousers (trousers made of jersey fabric are permitted providing they give the appearance of smart trousers, not leggings)
- Grey, white or black socks.
- Grey, white or black tights.
- Black shoes—these should be proper shoes ie not black trainers, crocs, or similar. Small, plain black ankle boots are acceptable during winter months.

Summer Uniform: as above, or red and white checked dress, grey or black knee-length tailored shorts.

Our Summer uniform can be worn from the return to school after the Easter break, up until October half term.

PE

- White t-shirt, black shorts which are suitable for school (including in length) and trainers (which can be any colour).
- Black jogging bottoms and a school jumper can be worn in winter for outdoor PE.

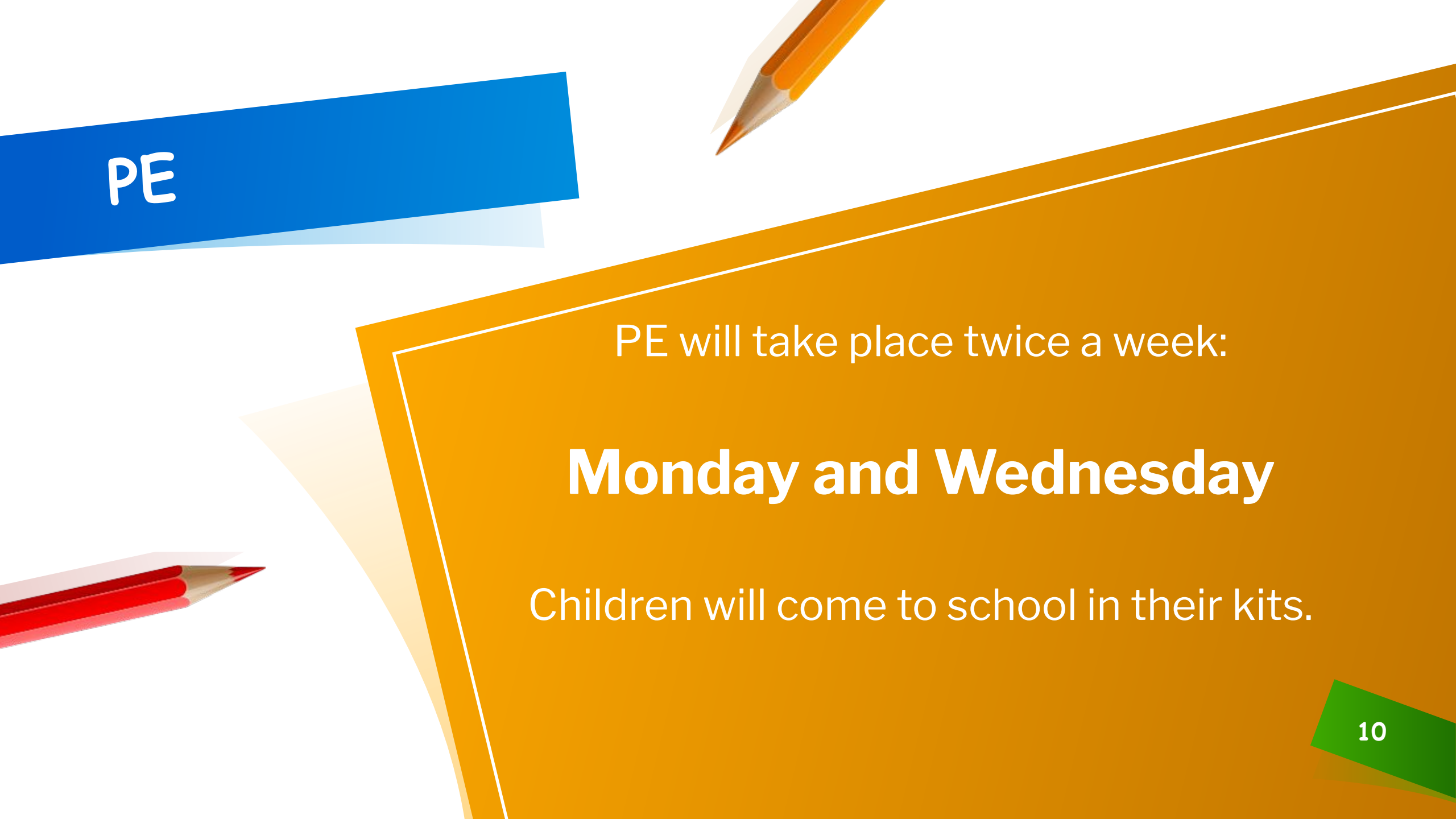
Jewellery

- Apart from 1 pair of stud earrings (1 earring in each ear), no jewellery should be worn.
- Earrings must be removed or taped over for PE lessons.
- We permit the wearing of a watch or fitbit, as long as the device does not have the ability to take calls, photos or videos.

Hair

- Hair should be a single natural colour.
- We advise that long hair should be tied back.
- All ribbons, slides, hair bands etc must be red, white or black and must be of a reasonable size.

Nail varnish or make-up should not be worn at school.



PE

PE will take place twice a week:

Monday and Wednesday

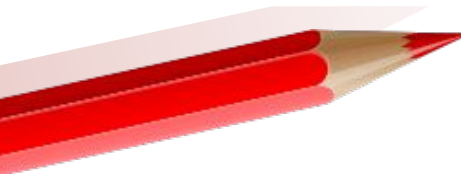
Children will come to school in their kits.



Reading in school:

Your child will read daily during reading or phonics lessons. This will involve reading a selection of different types of text.

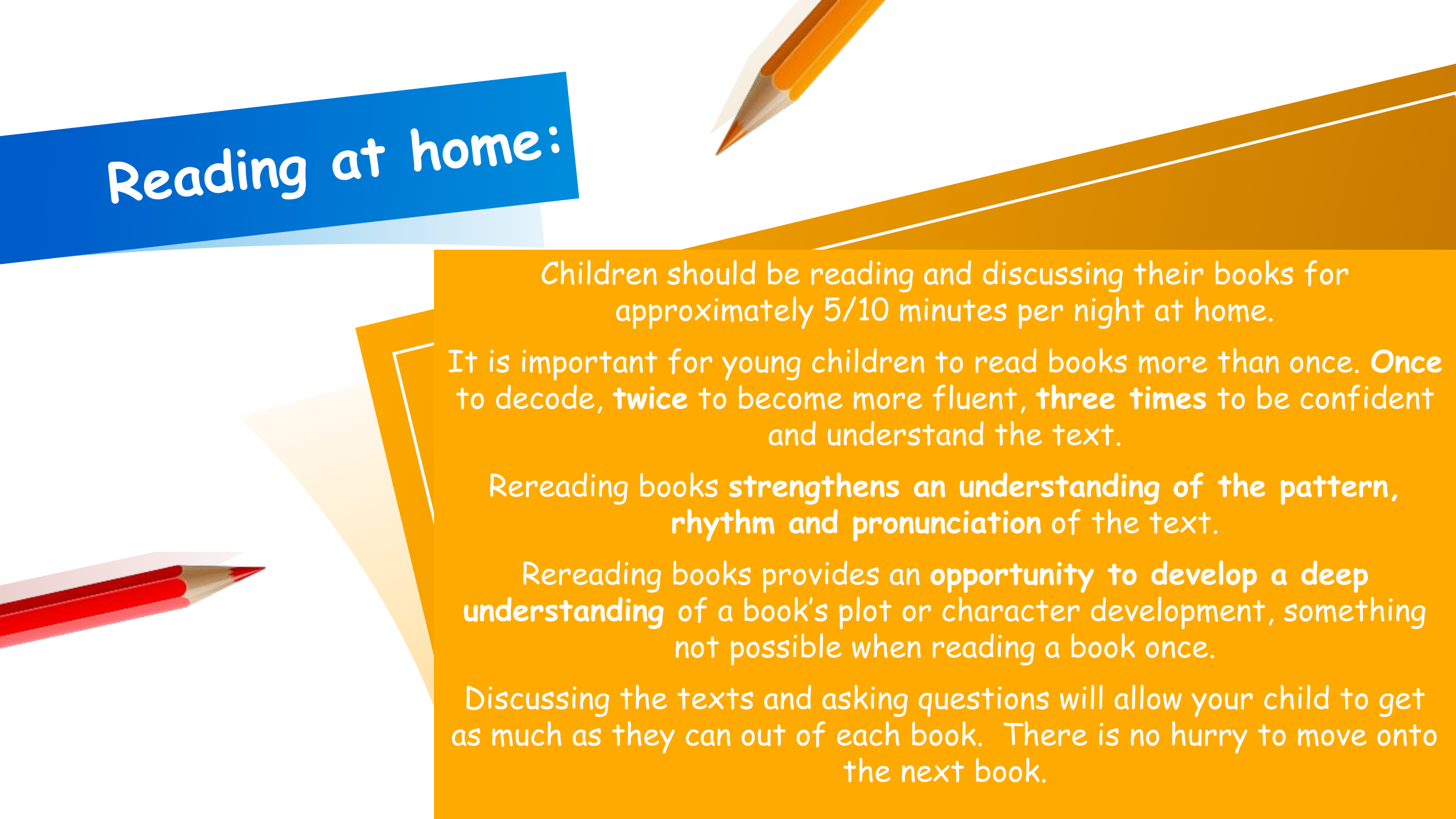
Children take part in ERIC time each day where everyone in class sits quietly to read a book of their choice.



Teachers and Teaching Assistants will take opportunities throughout the week to read individually with children. On these occasions they will assess reading levels and provide further support. **Books must be in school daily to enable this to happen.**

Children will have the opportunity to borrow a book from the library, these must be returned weekly.

Borrowing of library books will be introduced this half term.



Reading at home:

Children should be reading and discussing their books for approximately 5/10 minutes per night at home.

It is important for young children to read books more than once. **Once** to decode, **twice** to become more fluent, **three times** to be confident and understand the text.

Rereading books **strengthens an understanding of the pattern, rhythm and pronunciation** of the text.

Rereading books provides an **opportunity to develop a deep understanding** of a book's plot or character development, something not possible when reading a book once.

Discussing the texts and asking questions will allow your child to get as much as they can out of each book. There is no hurry to move onto the next book.

Reading at home:

Lime
White
Gold
Purple
Grey
Blue
Yellow
Orange
Pink
Purple
Green
Red
Ditty
Group A/B/C

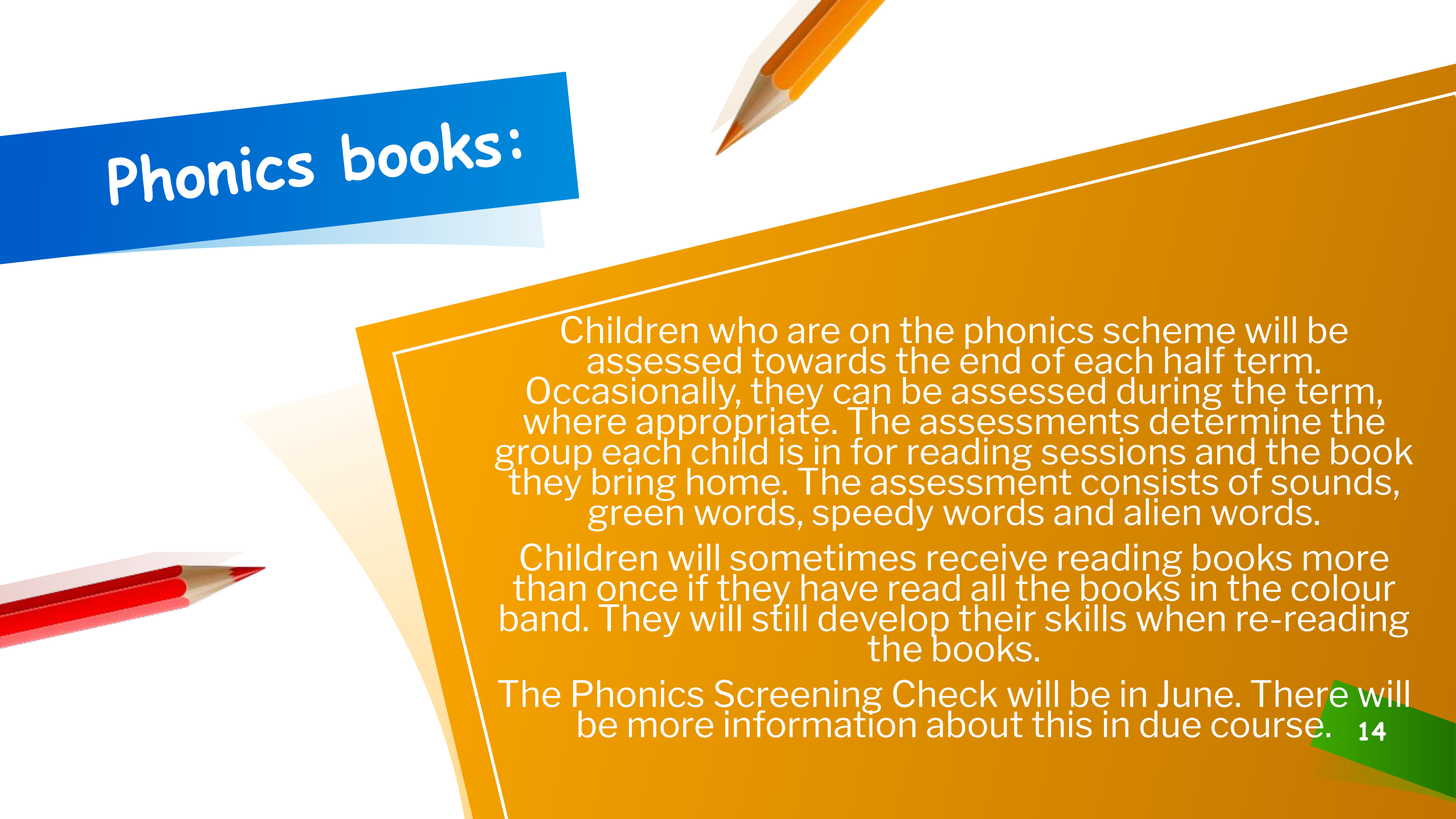
Read Write Inc phonic reading books will be changed when they have been read three times with an adult at home. There will need to be three comments in the reading record to show this and children will need to put their book into the box in the morning. For children reading banded books, we would expect it to take at least three separate occasions for your child to complete the book.

Please make a note in the reading record each time you read with your child. At the end of each month those who have read the most and the most improved reader will receive a certificate.

Don't forget to read to your child as well.

Sharing reading at home, especially at bedtime, is incredibly valuable.

Please see the guidance in reading records and in the curriculum letter for further information.

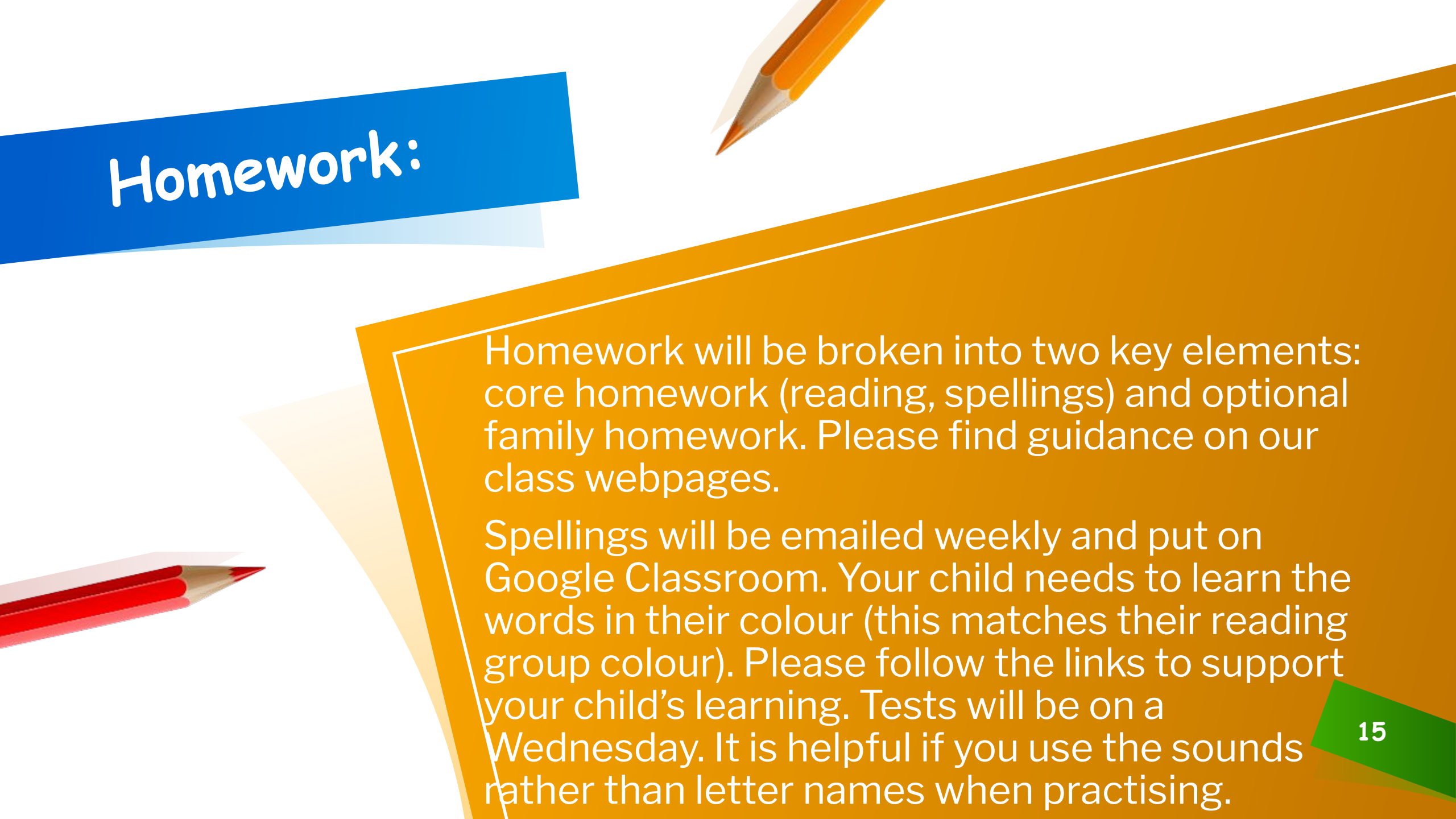


Phonics books:

Children who are on the phonics scheme will be assessed towards the end of each half term. Occasionally, they can be assessed during the term, where appropriate. The assessments determine the group each child is in for reading sessions and the book they bring home. The assessment consists of sounds, green words, speedy words and alien words.

Children will sometimes receive reading books more than once if they have read all the books in the colour band. They will still develop their skills when re-reading the books.

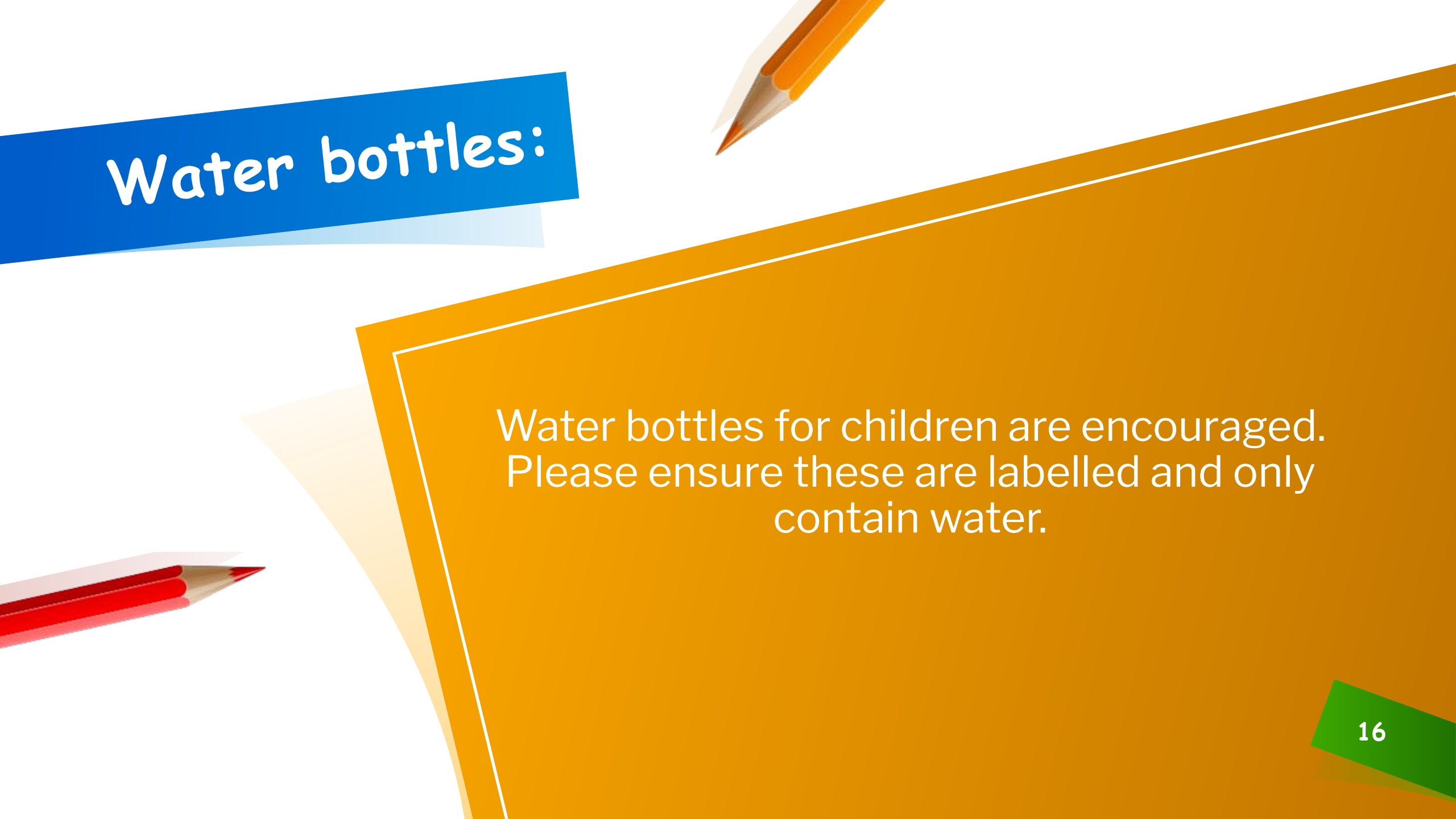
The Phonics Screening Check will be in June. There will be more information about this in due course.



Homework:

Homework will be broken into two key elements: core homework (reading, spellings) and optional family homework. Please find guidance on our class webpages.

Spellings will be emailed weekly and put on Google Classroom. Your child needs to learn the words in their colour (this matches their reading group colour). Please follow the links to support your child's learning. Tests will be on a Wednesday. It is helpful if you use the sounds rather than letter names when practising.



Water bottles:

Water bottles for children are encouraged.
Please ensure these are labelled and only
contain water.

Curriculum overview

	Autumn Term	
English	Narrative Old Bear by Jane Hissey Message Old Bear by Jane Hissey	Traditional Tale Narrative Rapunzel by Bethan Woollvin Instructions Rapunzel by Bethan Woollvin
Maths	Place Value within 10 Comparing and ordering numbers Shape Naming 2D and 3D shapes Position and Direction	Addition and Subtraction within 10 Number bonds to 10 Fact families
History	Childhood	
Geography	Our Wonderful World	
Science	Human Senses	Everyday Materials
RE	Who do Christians say made the world?	Why does Christmas matter to Christians?
Art & DT	Art - Mix it Art - Funny faces and fabulous features	DT- Shade and shelter
Music	My Musical Heartbeat	Dance, Sing and Play Exploring Sounds
PE	Team Building Dance	Ball Skills Gymnastics
Computing	Computing systems and networks – Technology around us	Creating media - Digital painting
PSHE	Making friends	Mental Health and Wellbeing

Visits to enhance topics:

- Lego workshop 29th September 2026
- A walk around our local area TBC
- British Schools museum 29th June 2027



Permissions

Please visit Arbor to give permissions for photos and google classroom.

- Log into Arbor
- From the main home page select the 3 lines at the bottom of the screen
- Select Profile
- Scroll down to consent
- Select each consent type and accept or decline

What can you do?

- Read everyday, including reading to your child, maybe a chapter book
- Practise phonics sounds and spellings
- Practise letter and number formation
- Learn key number facts – pairs that total 10
- Rehearse counting
- Practise spelling Common Exception Words
- Support your child's grammar – 'goed/went', 'catched/caught'
- Target specific areas for extra practise – handwriting, phonics, number bonds
- Be on time for school – 8.40am when the doors open
- Support your child to have a good night's sleep.



Thank You!