

Year 1 Newsletter

September 2021

Dear Parents,

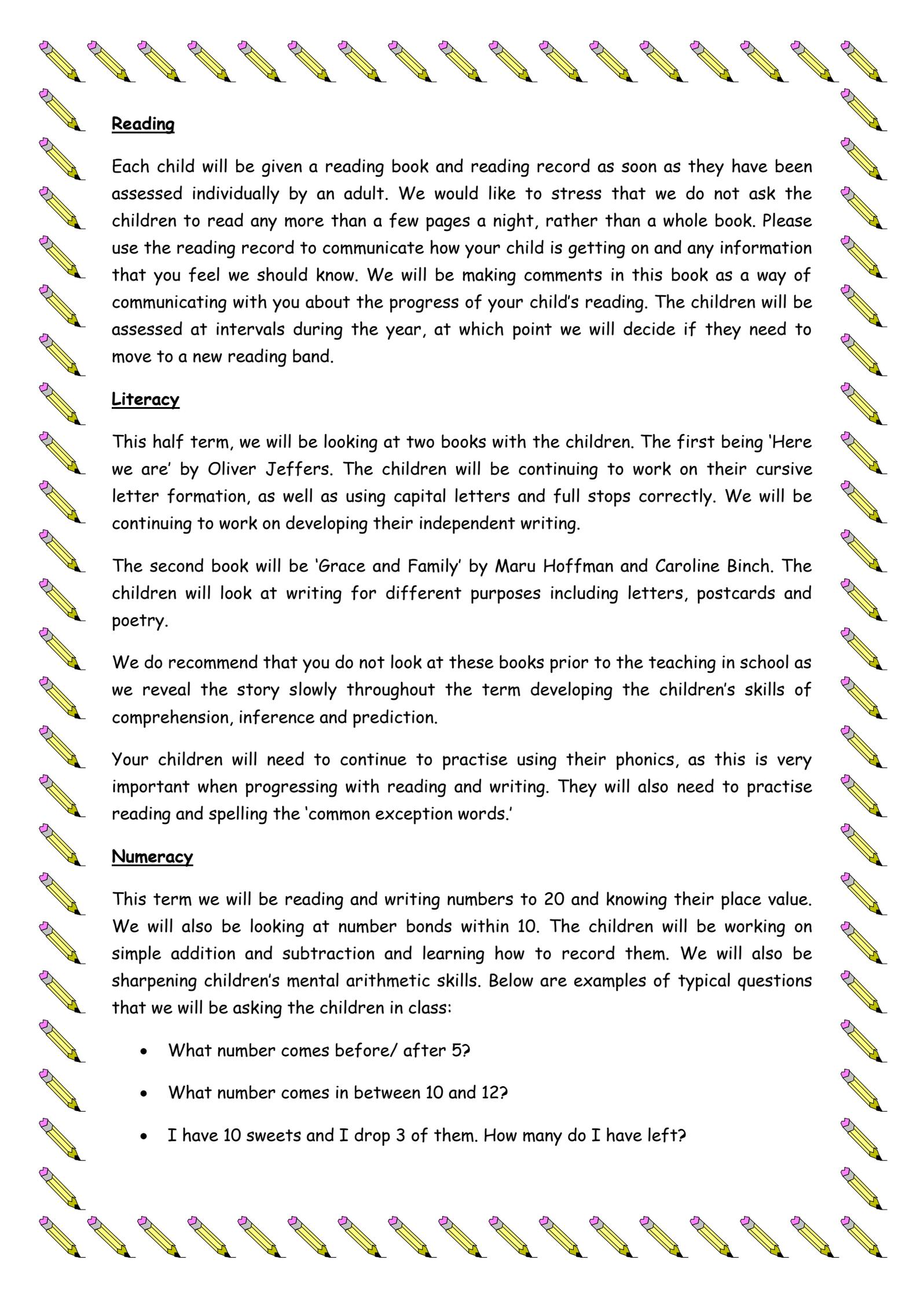
Welcome to Year 1 and welcome back to another school year. We hope that you and your families have had a relaxing and safe holiday break, ready for the start of the new term.

This newsletter will give you information about some of the things that your child will be learning about during this 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

Our first topic is called 'Beginning with God'. We will be looking at the singular nature of God (monotheism) and God as a Trinity. We will be looking at a variety of Biblical metaphors for God. We will also be learning about significant people in the Old Testament and learning the sign of the cross. Below is a list of the key vocabulary we will be using in the topic:

- Monotheism
- Trinity
- God
- Jesus
- Holy Spirit
- Exodus
- Revelation
- Sources
- Creation
- Human experience
- Tradition
- Scripture
- Metaphors
- Creed
- Nicaea



Reading

Each child will be given a reading book and reading record as soon as they have been assessed individually by an adult. We would like to stress that we do not ask the children to read any more than a few pages a night, rather than a whole book. 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. The children will be assessed at intervals during the year, at which point we will decide if they need to move to a new reading band.

Literacy

This half term, we will be looking at two books with the children. The first being 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. The children will be continuing to work on their cursive letter formation, as well as using capital letters and full stops correctly. We will be continuing to work on developing their independent writing.

The second book will be 'Grace and Family' by Maru Hoffman and Caroline Binch. The children will look at writing for different purposes including letters, postcards and poetry.

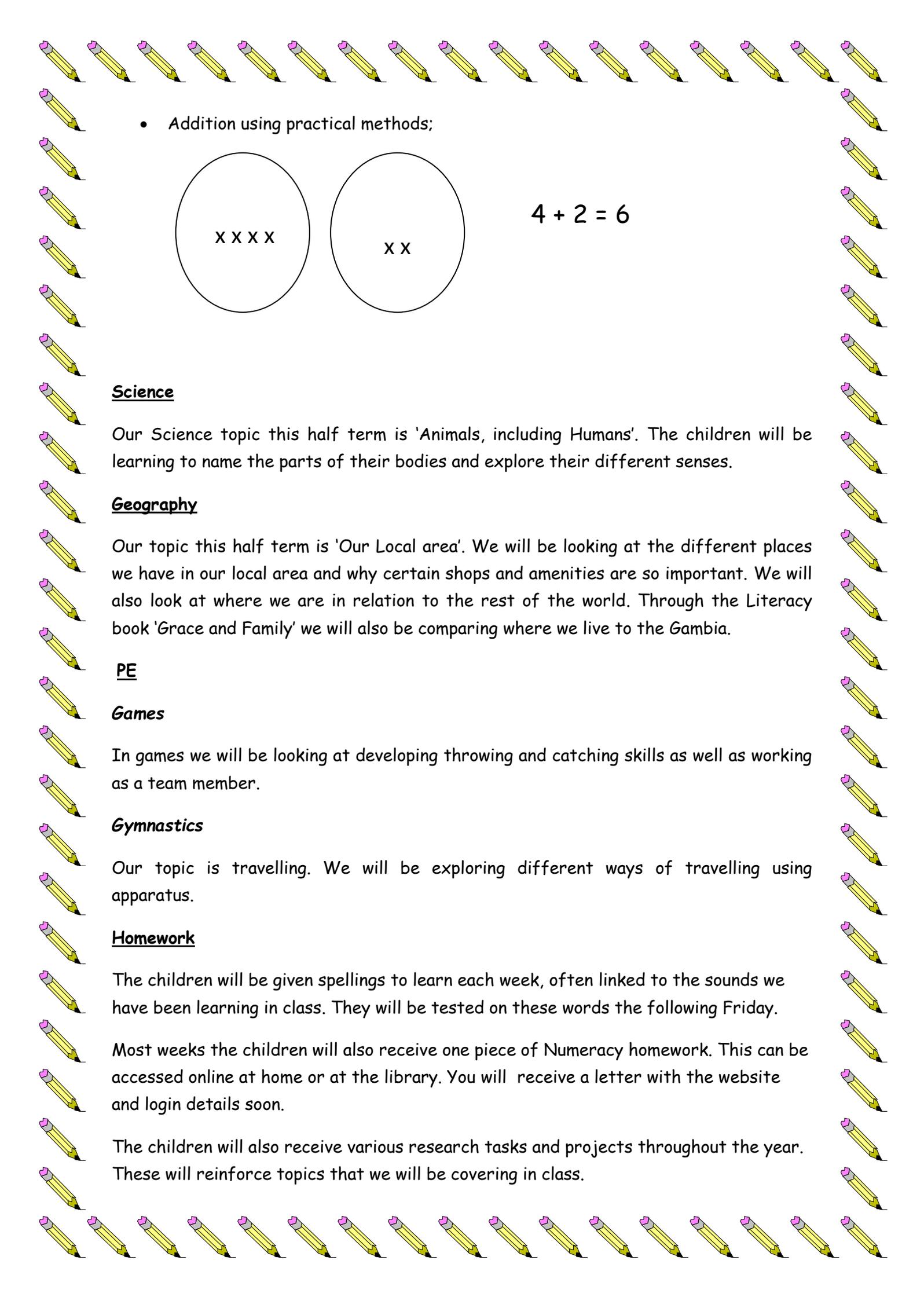
We do recommend that you do not look at these books prior to the teaching in school as we reveal the story slowly throughout the term developing the children's skills of comprehension, inference and prediction.

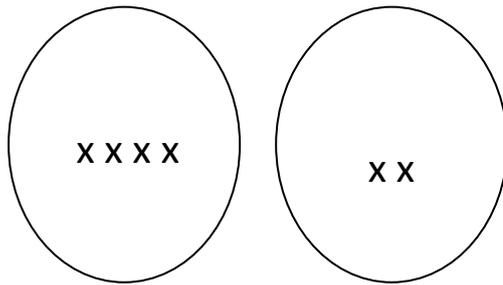
Your children will need to continue to practise using their phonics, as this is very important when progressing with reading and writing. They will also need to practise reading and spelling the 'common exception words.'

Numeracy

This term we will be reading and writing numbers to 20 and knowing their place value. We will also be looking at number bonds within 10. The children will be working on simple addition and subtraction and learning how to record them. We will also be sharpening children's mental arithmetic skills. Below are examples of typical questions that we will be asking the children in class:

- What number comes before/ after 5?
- What number comes in between 10 and 12?
- I have 10 sweets and I drop 3 of them. How many do I have left?

- 
- Addition using practical methods;



$$4 + 2 = 6$$

Science

Our Science topic this half term is 'Animals, including Humans'. The children will be learning to name the parts of their bodies and explore their different senses.

Geography

Our topic this half term is 'Our Local area'. We will be looking at the different places we have in our local area and why certain shops and amenities are so important. We will also look at where we are in relation to the rest of the world. Through the Literacy book 'Grace and Family' we will also be comparing where we live to the Gambia.

PE

Games

In games we will be looking at developing throwing and catching skills as well as working as a team member.

Gymnastics

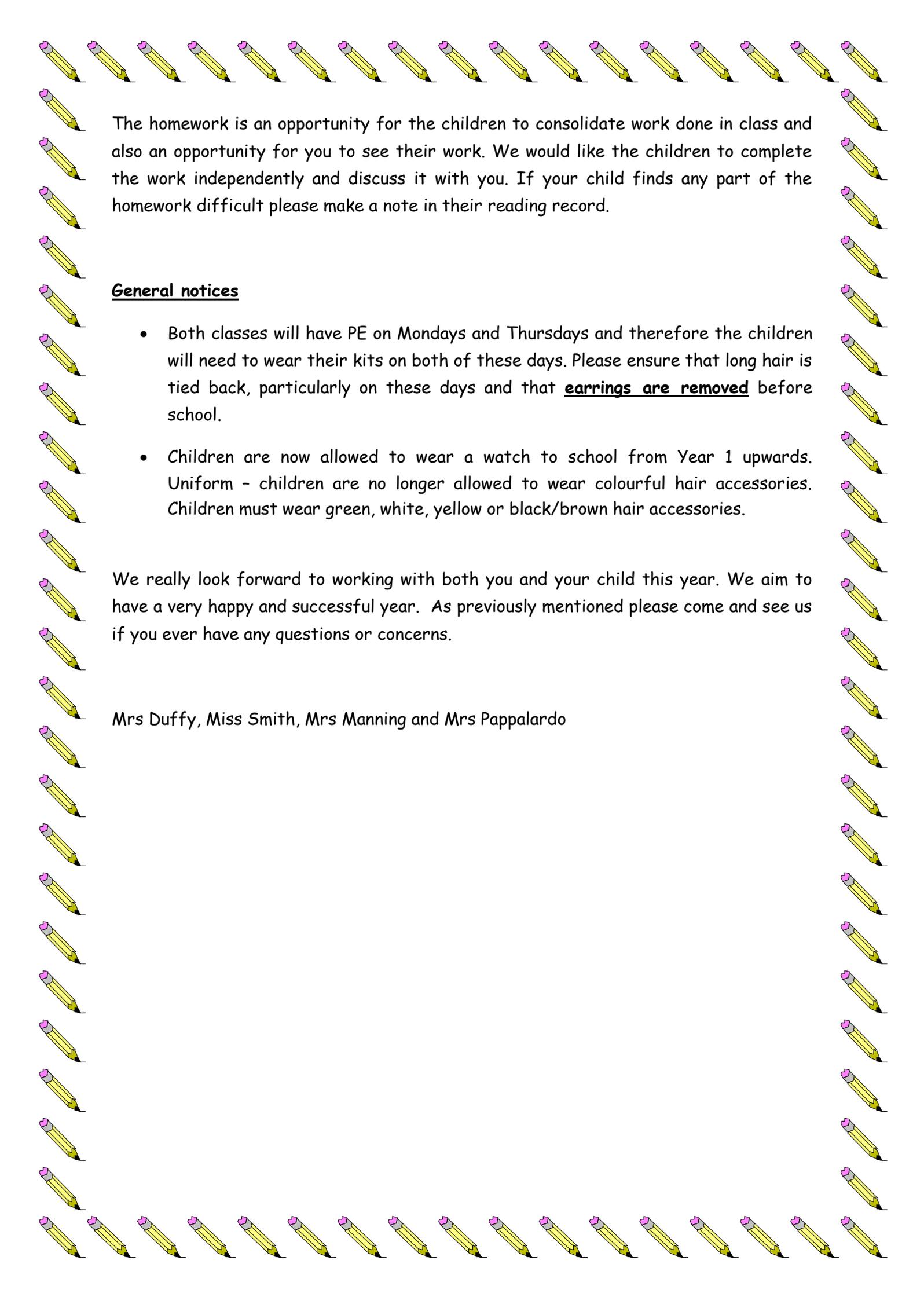
Our topic is travelling. We will be exploring different ways of travelling using apparatus.

Homework

The children will be given spellings to learn each week, often linked to the sounds we have been learning in class. They will be tested on these words the following Friday.

Most weeks the children will also receive one piece of Numeracy homework. This can be accessed online at home or at the library. You will receive a letter with the website and login details soon.

The children will also receive various research tasks and projects throughout the year. These will reinforce topics that we will be covering in class.



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 reading record.

General notices

- Both classes will have PE on Mondays and Thursdays and therefore the children will need to wear their kits on both of these days. Please ensure that long hair is tied back, particularly on these days and that **earrings are removed** before school.
- Children are now allowed to wear a watch to school from Year 1 upwards. Uniform - children are no longer allowed to wear colourful hair accessories. Children must wear green, white, yellow or black/brown hair accessories.

We really look forward to working with both you and your child this year. We aim to have a very happy and successful year. As previously mentioned please come and see us if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Duffy, Miss Smith, Mrs Manning and Mrs Pappalardo