
Compassion, Joy, Perseverance, Respect

24th January 2022

Homework – Years 1-6

Dear Parents and Carers,

The setting of homework has always been a contentious issue. Some parents like homework being set each week whilst others find it creates stress and tension in the home trying to get it completed. Getting the right balance is not always easy! We appreciate that many children often have many other clubs and activities after school and fitting in homework can be challenging.

The issue of homework has been extensively researched. There is stronger evidence that it is helpful amongst older pupils who are able to self-regulate their learning and who have more background knowledge to draw upon. Evidence also suggests that at primary school, homework is most effective when it involves practice rehearsal of subject matter already taught. The research also highlights that children completing homework develop better learning habits.

Given the above our homework will **focus on reading and instant recall of maths facts**.

Our homework expectation

- Homework will be given on Wednesday and expected in the following Monday.
- One piece of English and one piece of maths.
- Weekly spellings.
- Consolidation of times tables and number bonds- TT Rockstars 15mins/week.
- Daily reading.

Reading

There will be an emphasis on reading as a homework task in order to reflect the importance of this subject. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment each day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and better understanding across the curriculum. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Children are expected to read at least 3 times a week with an adult. Classes do have different systems for recording this (usually via journals or bookmarks).

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Maths Facts

The second emphasis will be **rapid recall of times tables or basic number facts**. Without a good knowledge of times tables and number bonds, progress in areas of maths can be slow. The teaching and learning of number facts can be greatly enhanced with the support of parents and carers as part of the children's home learning. Even a few minutes spent learning and recalling three times a week will make a huge difference.

As a school we have access to TTRockstars and we are trialling Numbots – these are both brilliant game based resources for learning and remembering times tables facts and number bonds. Both of these are building blocks for further maths teaching; the more easily a child can remember and retrieve these facts, the easier they will find maths. Class teachers check the apps for usage; we would recommend 15minutes per week.

Weekly Spelling

We will continue to set weekly spellings across Y1-6 and expect these to be part of your child's weekly homework.

Further Opportunities

Our termly overviews are on our website which show the topics the children will be studying. If your child is keen to carry out some independent research, the class teacher would be delighted to see this and share it with the rest of the class. Similarly, if your child has interests they are passionate about and want to share with us we will certainly praise and encourage them.

We make sure that we use the time in school to focus on the subjects, content, knowledge and skills that the children need to know. We build in time to recap and revisit areas of learning so that the children embed them in their memory. We do not feel it is a fair expectation for parents to take on the teaching burden, so we take responsibility to make sure the children leave us ready for the next stage in their journey. Within this, we will teach them about how to be responsible, how to manage their time and resources and how to apply their skills independently so that when they are faced with significant homework at secondary school they are ready for the challenge.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning.

Mrs Makey
Headteacher