

September 2019

RE: Homework

Over the last year, our School Council worked on improving our homework system. They have taken this role very seriously to ensure that they considered the thoughts of all their peers.

The Council recognised the importance of homework as a way of practising skills that they have learnt in class and that homework enables teachers to spot where children may need a little more assistance. They were also keen to promote that spending time with family and loved ones is as important a learning opportunity as academic work.

Some of the feedback the Council got included,

'We want our homework to be valued if we are spending time doing it and to get some feedback on it'

'We want to make sure that everyone is getting a fair amount of homework'

'We want the opportunity to use skills and knowledge that we have acquired in subjects other than Maths and English'

'We want to encourage everyone to spend time with their families as well as working'

'We want work that matches what we are able to do so that we are challenged'

'We want work that will allow us to practise what we have done in class so that we can make sure we really have fixed it in our brains'

The Council also recognised that there are extra demands on their teachers' workload when it comes to both setting and marking homework and so were also mindful of this when planning out how our system will work. On the back of this letter you will find clarification of how homework will be set.

Reception: information to follow at the Reception information meeting on 1st October

Year One: the children will be sent their weekly word boxes to learn plus their reading book

In Year Two: one short piece of maths homework linked to the work that week, weekly spellings that will be tested iteratively and reading at least 5 times a week.

KS2: one short piece of maths that is differentiated either as a worksheet or through an online link, weekly spellings that are tested iteratively, times table practise through TT Rockstars and reading at least 5 times a week.

Year Six: in addition to the above, Year Six will also have one short piece of grammar homework to prepare them for the end of KS2 assessment. We also purchase a revision guide for every child so that they can carry out further independent study.

Reading at Home: We have purchased new planners for KS2 this year that include a section where reading at home can be recorded and KS1 have a reading record. It is really important that every time your child reads you take a few moments to record how they got on so that we can follow it up in school. All homework will be stuck in a homework book and marked so that parents and children can see how they have done each week.

Whole School: For each half term holiday (October, February and May), teachers will set an **optional** project-based piece of work linking to what the children have been doing in subjects other than Maths and English. How these projects are presented will be totally up to your child as the Council felt it was important to allow everyone to demonstrate their learning through the medium that they wish to do so. If a child does complete a project, they will be rewarded with the class reward system and their work will also be displayed at the next Open Afternoon for everyone to see. These projects will be shared with the children at the start of the half term so that there is plenty of notice as the Council recognised that families may go on holiday over the half term breaks.

For our Christmas and Easter holidays, our School Council recognised that these are key points in the year when families get together so there will be no homework set. Instead, the Council have come up with a list of suggested activities for our children to do with their family and friends. These will be stuck in the homework books and space left if you wish to stick in some photos of what you have been up to. These will be used to promote discussion in class when they return from the holidays.

We hope that you agree that the Council have done a fantastic piece of work here in clarifying our procedures and ensuring that it is both manageable and effective.

Many thanks for your continued support.