



*Reaching for the Stars!*  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

An Update on our Homework Policy for Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 Pupils

This is an update on our homework policy which was previously shared with you several years ago. The setting of homework for primary school children has always been a contentious issue. Some parents like homework being set each week, whilst others find it creates a lot of stress and tension in the home trying to get it completed. The issue of the effectiveness of homework has been extensively researched with limited results. There is stronger evidence that it is helpful at secondary level amongst older pupils who are able to self-regulate their learning and who have more background knowledge to draw upon, but much less evidence of any significant benefit to pupils at primary level. Indeed, evidence suggests that at primary school level there are two things which make the greatest difference to pupils' attainment linked to home learning: 1. Reading regularly with an adult and discussing what you have read and 2. Regular times table practice. Therefore, we made the decision as a school to provide homework tasks which focus on mainly reading and instant recall of times table facts for pupils in Year 2 upwards.

Something that is really important to us as a school is parental engagement. We aim to provide homework tasks which pupils and parents can do together. This year, we have subscribed to an excellent website called 'Learning with Parents' (<https://learningwithparents.com/>). The aim of this website is to support children's learning at home and to help families have enjoyable learning experiences together. Details of how to set up access to this website have been shared with parents, but please contact your child's class teacher, via Seesaw, if you are still having difficulty logging on. Teachers will schedule videos and activities for pupils and families to enjoy together once every two weeks. The intention is that these activities are short and engaging, and should not be onerous or time consuming for either pupil or parent/carer.

As a school, we are really trying to promote the idea of every children reading 'a book a week'. Children are expected to read at least 3 times per week with an adult and this must be recorded in your child's planner. This is monitored on a weekly basis by your child's class teacher/teaching assistant and rewarded using our new bookmark incentive scheme. In addition, children in Key Stage 2 will be expected to complete a book review/book journal about the book which they have read once every two weeks - this is important as it will enable your child's teacher/teaching assistant to check that your child has understood what they have read and are able to talk about their reading in a meaningful way.

The second emphasis for homework is rapid recall of times tables. The rapid recall of number facts is the foundation for virtually every aspect of primary maths. Without a good knowledge of number facts, then progress in these areas is always going to be slow. The teaching and learning of number facts can be greatly enhanced with the support of parents and carers as part of children's home learning. Even a few minutes spent learning and recalling number facts three times a week will make a huge difference to your child. In order to practise rapid recall of tables, tables could be chanted, learnt as songs or action rhymes. Copy writing tables is another approach which may not appear very exciting, but children do often quite like the practice of doing it. Please also remember to use Times Tables Rockstars ( <https://ttrockstars.com/>). This is a great website which children can log into to practise their times table facts on a daily basis. This website is ideal for boosting maths ability, fluency and confidence. Teachers will carry out weekly times tables tests to ensure that children are regularly learning their tables and they will also give a short activity for children to complete at home to reinforce the times table which they are learning in class. Year 2 will receive login details for this, once they begin learning multiplication and division. From Reception to Year 2 we would recommend getting the White Rose app. This is a free resource and supports the building of firm number foundations.

From Year 1 onwards, weekly spelling lists will also still be given to reinforce spelling patterns and rules learnt in class and to learn how to spell key words. Children will be expected to learn their spellings using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method and these will be tested each week in class.

### Year 6

In order to prepare our Year 6 pupils for secondary school and for their SATs tests at the end of the year, Year 6 pupils will be given an additional piece of written homework each week (either comprehension, SPaG or Maths). In addition, they will be given more homework after Christmas to prepare them for their SATs in May. This will only apply to our Year 6 pupils.

Finally, may I remind parents that your child's Planner contains a wealth of useful information to support your child with their learning at home.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K. Brookes - Deputy Head teacher.