



Friday 11th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would just like to explain the current expectations surrounding homework in Year 5 and Year 6. Homework will play a vital role in supporting the progress your child makes this academic year, but I do not want it to become an overly time-consuming or stressful experience for yourselves or your children, and therefore it will only be given if it is purposeful.

Reading

As previously mentioned, reading is a skill that underpins all other areas of learning and it is extremely important that children have the opportunity to read regularly. With this in mind, it is an expectation that children practise reading at home as well as the independent and guided reading they are directed to do in class. Please try to ensure that this is an enjoyable experience - reading for pleasure is extremely important and is a life-long skill. Again, reading does not always have to be just books – the world around us provides lots of reading opportunities and is just as important. Please take time to discuss with your child what they have read. Learning acquired through reading is something that can be brought into class verbally and this will be so beneficial as we progress through the year.

Spelling

Each week children will be asked to learn spellings based on spelling rules outlined in the National Curriculum for Year 5 & 6. The purpose of learning these spellings will be to gain confidence when applying the rules. The spelling list and focus rule will have been modelled, taught and practised at school previously so it should be a case of revision and reinforcement at home, with your support.

Whilst the children will sit a spelling test each Friday, it is vital that they understand that the learning the vocabulary is not for the test, it is so that when they are used in any form of writing, the words are spelled accurately and used correctly in context. From the weekly list of spellings, children will be tested on a random 13 words; 10 where they are asked just to spell the word, and 3 where they are asked to spell the word but also include it in a sentence to check they understand the meaning of the word and they are able to use it in the correct context.

Mathematics

Year 5 children will be required to complete work set on Times Tables Rockstars. Knowledge of times tables and accurate and rapid recall of these facts is extremely important as they need to be applied throughout the mathematics curriculum.

I would advise that this program is accessed regularly - little and often - and made as much a part of the daily routine as possible so that the children don't view it as homework but more taking ownership of their own learning.

I will be monitoring the use of the program and providing rewards for participation. If any children aren't accessing the program at home due to whatever reason, it may be possible to provide some limited access whilst at school. However, I would like this to be a last resort as this would prove a little difficult in the current circumstances.

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Easington Church of England Primary School



In the coming weeks, Year 6 will be introduced to an online learning platform called 'SATs Companion' and this will be used to set homework tasks. I will provide a separate letter about this with login information etc. However, at present I feel that completing two hours each week outside of regular school hours in our 'booster' sessions is sufficient along with the other home learning outlined in this letter. In the Autumn term booster sessions we will cover/recap Year 5 learning objectives to ensure there are no gaps, with the intention that children are able to progress through the Year 6 curriculum objectives in mathematics lessons.

Half Term Homework

As Our Curriculum is topic based, we normally set homework activities based on the topic the children have been learning. The children have a wealth of knowledge about the specific topic, as they will have been learning about it throughout the half term. Unfortunately, under the current circumstances with wanting to reduce the amount of things coming into school from home, we will not be setting any half term homework in this term. This will be reviewed at the beginning of the Spring Term.

As the academic year progresses, there may be changes to homework for both Year 5 and Year 6 children based on what is deemed to be necessary following work in class. I will of course ensure you are fully aware of any changes or requirements.

If you have any issues with the homework expectations, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Kind regards,

Mrs Appleby

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