



Friday 11th September

Dear parents/carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the expectations surrounding homework. I do not want homework to become an onerous or stressful experience for yourselves or the children, however, it will play a vital role in supporting the progress your child makes this academic year.

Reading-reading is a skill that underpins all other areas of learning and it is extremely important that children have the opportunity to read regularly. To that end, it is an expectation that the children will read their home reading book **EVERY** night and an adult's signature will be provided to ensure that the reading has taken place. Please try to ensure that this is an enjoyable experience-reading for pleasure is extremely important and is a life-long skill. Perhaps reading a chapter/section of the book just before bedtime could be an option.

As class teacher, part of my responsibility to your children is to ensure that they are reading regularly at home. This will be monitored closely at school to ensure if any support is required, we are able to provide it in a timely fashion. If the children read for 4 out of the 5 school nights, a reward will be provided but the reading diary **MUST** be brought into school to ensure that this can be checked and carried out fairly.

Reading activities-your child will bring home a range of reading tasks and an exercise book in which to complete them. The tasks will assess various reading skills, such as comprehension and deduction, whilst providing an enjoyable activity for the children. Your child will have the choice of which tasks to complete but can I ask you to ensure that a range of tasks are carried out for the overall benefit of your child.

Spelling-each week, the children will be provided with a list of spellings/spelling rules that they are required to learn/apply. In some instances, the words will be from the National Curriculum spelling lists specific to each year group or the homework will focus on the application of a spelling rule. When the homework focuses on a spelling rule, it 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.

In other cases, the list of words sent home may be words with which the class are struggling to use accurately at school so the spelling homework will help to address this gap in knowledge. Whilst the children will sit a spelling test, 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.

The spelling sheets do not need to be sent back into school-please keep them at home and file for your own reference.

Mathematics-each week, the children will be required to complete work set on Times Tables Rockstars. Knowledge of times tables and almost instant recall of these facts is extremely important as they need to be applied throughout and across the mathematics curriculum. Please note also that children in **Year 4** will be the first to officially sit the Government's 'times tables check' during this academic year so it is essential that these facts (**both multiplication and division**) are learned, retained and used as rapidly and as accurately as possible.

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Your support in helping your child retain this information will be very much appreciated. During the official Government test, the children will have 6 seconds to answer each question that flashes up on the computer screen-therefore it is vital that the children can recall all facts for all times tables by rote memory. We will be devoting time to learning tables every day at school but completion of the tasks at home will be vital in supporting your child.

I would advise you to use the program (either on a computer or via the app) little and often-perhaps on a car journey the children could complete a quick piece of practise or just before tea. My advice would be to make it as much a part of the daily routine as much as possible so that the children don't view it as 'just another thing to do'.

If you are struggling to use the program please don't hesitate to notify me through the school office so I can support in any way I can. 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, I will be able to provide some limited access whilst at school. However, I would like this to be a last resort as the curriculum time we have available has been stringently allocated.

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.

Please note:

Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and be returned for the following Monday.

Our first set of homework will be given out on Wednesday 16th September 2020.

Should you encounter any difficulties with any of the homework, please notify me as soon as possible so I can assist in any way I can.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,

Kindest regards,

Mr. Churchill

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