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'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

16th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Homework is an often debated subject; some parents love it, others hate it and teachers can also be polarized in their views over its benefits compared to the pressures they believe some families feel they are under at the end of a working day.

At St Margaret's at Cliffe School, we feel homework should be:

- Linked to the learning that is happening in school
- Fun and motivating
- Fit in, and around, school life
- Prepare the older children for the more onerous secondary school requirements

With this in mind we are going to start re-introducing homework from Friday 17th September.

Firstly there will be two elements which we would like your children to do every day. Mrs Collins, as maths lead, and Mrs Wallis, our English lead, have written a short paragraph for you to explain these tasks.

Maths:

The quick recall of multiplication and division facts (times tables) is essential for all children. The ability to recall these facts quickly enables children to answer related questions with ease. It is therefore important that we approach the teaching and testing of times tables in a similar and progressive format from Year 2 to Year 6.

According to the new National Curriculum 2014 the expectation of times tables in each Year Group is as follows:

Year 2: 2x, 5x, 10x

Year 3: 3x, 4x, 8x

Year 4: 6x, 7x, 9x, 11x, 12x

Year 5: All x and ÷ facts (12x12)

Year 6: All x and ÷ facts (12x12) and related language/symbols e.g. % and square root.

You can support your child's progress by using Timestable Rockstars daily and any other suggested ideas given by your child's class teacher on their home learning grid.

Mrs Collins



Reading:

We advise that all children should read at home for at least 10 minutes per day.

This time should be spent with your child reading their school reading book to a grown up to build fluency.

This remains important in Key Stage Two, as often your child will encounter new and ambitious vocabulary that can diminish meaning of the text if not explained and discussed.

In addition to this, we recommend that time is spend sharing a book of your child's choice. This can be read by a grown up or shared as a family, taking turns to read.

We have re-introduced the individual reading records for your child this year.

This record is for you (and your child) to record the reading they have completed both in and outside of school. Please record how many pages they have read, or if they have completed a book. The reading record book needs to be kept with the school reading books and returned together please. We will send a new school book home each week to practise reading together.

Your child will continue to read individually in school, in groups as well as having daily 'reading for pleasure' time. We will introduce the children to a range of books with the aim of developing and nurturing a love of reading in all that books have to offer through fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

We ask all our parents/carers to send their child's reading books in to school every day so that our class staff can listen to your child read their current book whenever possible.

Reception Class Reading

Please see separate letter from Mrs Collins regarding reading in Reception Class.

Mrs Wallis

The final part of our weekly homework expectations will be to complete an activity from a grid. Teachers will send you a termly grid with a range of activities for your child to complete. As a family you may choose:

- Which order you do the activities
- What day you do the task on
- Whether you wish to work with your child to complete it or if they will do it independently
- Which one fits better in a week when you have lots of family events in the diary
- Which activity you don't want to do at all, because there will always be more activities than weeks in the term so that you have an element of choice.



We will continue to use the homework books each week, although we appreciate some tasks may not have anything to record in a book, on these occasions maybe a photograph could be put in to show what you have been doing? The teachers will talk through their expectations of presenting work in this book with the children, ie: writing the date and title, using a pen for children in years 3 to 6, writing neatly. We ask that the homework comes in on a Wednesday so that we can mark it, where necessary, and then the books will come back out to you on a Friday. If you miss the Wednesday, the book can come in on a Thursday or Friday but we can't guarantee it will be marked until the following week.

We are hoping that the children will all enjoy the challenges of the new homework style being used throughout the school and will feel it is supporting their learning in the classroom.

If you have any further questions please do contact the class teachers who will clarify anything for you.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Hindle
Head of School

