18th December 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers

**Homework**

Following our most recent Parent Survey and parental requests, we have been considering ways in which we can provide more resources to you as parents to help children with the key learning that takes place in maths and English. We have also received enquiries from parents asking about ways that their children can be using and applying their knowledge beyond simple recall of times tables. Following a review by staff, we are proposing that, from the Spring term, all children in Y1 – Y6 will receive homework booklets (instead of worksheets) for maths and reading comprehension in addition to times tables and spelling work. The booklets will include tasks to help them extend and broaden their reading and number and arithmetic skills. These will differ depending on your child's confidence and knowledge, but in all cases are to provide your child with a targeted activity or series of questions which you can also use to support them with their learning.

Research suggests that revising the key skills learned in the classroom during homework increases the likelihood of a pupil remembering and being able to use those skills in a variety of situations in the future, contributing to their overall education.

Homework can be effective when it’s the right type of homework, particularly setting work that is relevant. The following general rules should apply:

* Making sure pupils can complete the homework. It should be pitched to a pupil’s age and skills – anxiety will only limit their cognitive abilities in that topic. A high chance of success will increase the reward stimulation in the brain.
* Getting parents involved, without the homework being a point of conflict with pupils. Make it a sharing of information, rather than a battle.
* Check the homework with the pupils afterwards. This offers a chance to review the key concepts and allow the working memory to become part of the long-term memory.

We fully appreciate that there are some children who lead exceptionally busy lives and enjoy doing other activities at home such as reading, playing sport or a musical instrument, or even helping with the cooking, shopping and younger siblings. Some children also enjoy being part of other organisations too, such as Boys Brigade, Scouts or Brownies. These things are really helpful for children to learn to work in a team, to be creative, to ask questions and to help other people, which are all important skills.

We believe the key is to find a balance – of course we want the children to laugh and play, be happy and **BE** children but the reason we give homework is to support the learning that goes on at school and to show us what children have or haven’t understood and how we can move forward. Also, for parents, homework is a good insight into what your child is doing, the topics they’re working on and the level they’re at.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s homework or indeed other aspects of their education, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Kind regards

Mrs. D. Eaton

Headteacher