Homework

We thought it would be helpful as part of the parent consultation process this term if we provided some information about homework. We have expectations for all our children to carry out some school related activities at home, from sharing a book in the early years to regular maths and English work in years 5 and 6. The purpose is to provide children with chances to practice and consolidate their learning, to share their learning with people at home and to encourage them to develop self discipline and independence.

It is really important that children have the opportunity to develop interests and talents outside of school. They must also have time for unstructured play. With this in mind, we try to limit the amount of time children need to spend on homework and would always advocate a little and often approach.

It is our intention that work set for completion at home should provide chances to rehearse and practice concepts that have already been met in school. We also try to provide homework regularly to help your child establish routines. Please contact your child's class teacher if your child appears not to be receiving regular homework in line with the guidance overleaf or if they regularly struggle to complete it independently. If your child is struggling with a particular piece of homework please put a note on the homework itself so that school staff can follow it up.

Some hints for homework

Try to establish routine days and times for completing homework so that:

- Children know what to expect and are not rushed
- Children are not trying to complete too much work in one go
- You can fit it around other out of school activities
- Someone at home can be available to support and monitor the work

Your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks. Please ensure homework is not used as a punishment or threat.

Expectations are obviously different in different classes. The information overleaf is relevant to your child's class.

We are occasionally asked by parents to provide extra homework. It may be possible to do this in individual circumstances if it is in the interests of the child but it is not our policy to provide extra work routinely. With that in mind we have provided some activities overleaf that can be used at home to rehearse and reinforce learning. There are also a number of commercially available books and a sea of apps and online games to choose from. Below is a list of some of the ones we have used.

Apps: The times spelling bee; kopfnuss (maths); Squeebles (maths); NineGaps (maths); Hairy letters (phonics); Pocket phonics; Mr Thorne does Phonics; Brainpop

Websites: Nessy Tables of Doom (see the school website); Weebly; Tutpup

Expectations and routines for Dinghy Class

We realise that circumstances and events can sometimes make routine difficult and of course you will have your own approaches that work for your children but we thought the below might be a useful guide

Daily reading (10-20 minutes 5 times each week)

It will depend on the needs of individual children (ask the class teacher what they recommend) but this should be a combination of reading independently, reading out-loud to an adult and talking about their reading with an adult (see the guidance in the back of the reading record). Please ensure reading records are signed each time one of the above happens so that we can celebrate it in school.

Spellings (practice 2 or 3 times a week)

Each set of spellings is linked to your child's learning in letters and sounds that week. Please support your child with correct letter formation when they practise their spellings. Spellings are tested on Thursdays.

Other activities

Occasionally the class teacher will ask children to do some research or a specific piece of work around a topic area.

Something extra (if you feel it appropriate but please ensure your child has time to play!)

A good routine (it can be quite challenging) is to encourage children to explain their homework: what they have done and why. The following are suggested activities for consolidation, rehearsal or extension:

English

Use words from the spelling lists in context.

Can you write a sentence using each of these words?

Can you write one sentence using three of these words?

Can you find three synonyms (words that mean the same)?

You could also collect interesting words and phrases from a child's own reading and do the above with them.

Maths

Some calculation methods are taught very differently in school to the way we were taught in the past. Please try and resist the temptation to "unteach" what your child has learnt in school by showing children different methods; it can be very confusing for your children.

To help you can:

Chant times tables forwards and backwards (there are lots of commercially available child friendly times tables songs and albums)

Practise number facts orally or in writing (number bonds, doubling and halving)

Play a whole host of games that improve children's logic, problem solving and maths skills e.g. backgammon, go, card games, draughts, lego...etc. You will also find a list of domino games on our website which can help improve logical thinking and mental recall of number facts.