

## Homework for 2018-19 academic year

Dear parents

We are changing and simplifying the homework process across school this year. In response to requests from some parents and to develop consistency, we will be creating a more straightforward approach to homework across all age groups which takes account of the external additional demands that many of our children have each week. At age-appropriate levels, work will be set each Friday in the following areas and the expectation is that this will be completed prior to the following Friday, so that it can be used in follow-on work or applied in a test of the skills. Y1 homework will go out on Friday, for completion by the following Thursday (further details to come).

To simplify information, **spelling and maths tasks will be posted on the website on new class pages, as well as being emailed out for each year group** each week, so that parents can see what is expected of their child. The first homework session will be Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September. On the website class pages, there will be a dated link to the homework for each particular week.

Each year group will have work in the following areas:

### Spellings / Phonics (F2 and Y1)

F2/Y1: The children will need to regularly practice key sounds, words or blends that will be sent out on a weekly basis. Some Y1 children will be given spellings to learn to move their understanding on as well.

Y2-Y6: The expectation is that children will have to learn a set of key words (which will be taken from our new Babcock spelling scheme, based on the National Curriculum year group requirements). They should be learnt as standalone spellings and applied in contextual sentences, so that the children understand their meaning. Follow-on work in school will check correct spelling is applied. We ask that the children should spend at least 3 x 10 minutes per week learning these. Spellings will be tested on Fridays (apart from Y1), standalone or contextually in sentences.

### Times tables and mathematics skills

We want the children to regularly practice the times table applicable to their year group. We would like them to challenge themselves by using the '**Times Tables RockStars**' program which allows them to play competitively against other users in a safe environment (all applicable KS2 children will be given logon reminders). We expect the children to learn the multiplication and division facts and as they progress, to be able to apply the skills in different contexts such as number sequences, fractions and decimals. They will also be tested on the applicable mathematical vocabulary (such as 'find the sum of...', 'what is the product of...', 'what are the factors of...') and will need calculation practice (e.g.  $x n$ ,  $-n$ ,  $+ n$ ,  $/ n$ ). These will be usually be tested standalone or in context at the beginning of the following week. Each week, the posted homework will specify which elements the children should focus on and any vocabulary to be learnt.

### Reading

All children should be encouraged to read for pleasure throughout the week, whether they are emerging or free and fluent readers. All children will be bringing home new reading records throughout the school; the children need to record how often they read during the week and to record any comments they wish to put about what they have read. This can be using school books or material from home at a time to suit the family. We want the children to read at least **four** times per week and (if they are free readers) with your help, to choose a book which challenges them in terms of content or maybe subject matter that they would not normally look at.

We hope that this new approach means that homework does not become a burden for families, there is clarity over the expectation for every year group and it should reduce the possibility of work being 'lost in transit'.