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Acting Headteacher: Charlotte Stewart

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing with our plans for homework over the academic year 2019 - 2020.

Homework is often raised by parents as a cause for concern. These concerns vary. The most common are:

- too much homework
- too little homework
- unmarked homework
- inappropriately pitched homework
- family and individual stress caused by homework.

We have discussed homework as a whole staff, leadership team and in the curriculum working group. There are no statutory guidelines for homework and a lot of evidence emphasises that homework has no impact upon attainment and progress of children. Headteachers must decide how much extra study, if any, their pupils require.

Here is our plan for homework.

- Every child from Y1 – Y6 will have a **purple homework book**;
- Homework books will be monitored at least once a year by the leadership team;
- **Daily reading** is highly recommended. In the younger age groups parents will be guided by the teacher. Children and parents will complete a reading journal to let the teacher know how a child has read
- **Weekly spellings** (we have a separate booklet which supports parents and carers with strategies to support spelling at home). Children will be given spellings to learn/use and apply. Spelling is an area that we need to monitor carefully and the spellings will link to spelling patterns, lists in the National Curriculum for English or topic work covered in school;
- **Times tables to learn** until children are **secure with their tables up to 12 X**. These will be practiced using our Times Table Rockstars online program each week or as regularly as possible.
- **Year 5 & 6 will sometimes get additional homework** to prepare for their assessment tests which are in May every year. The class teachers will recommend practice books;
- Some children **who are receiving extra help in school for English and maths may get specific tasks** to practice at home to support work done in school;
- **Every class** will be given a list of eight activities which will vary in length and will **link to the curriculum storytelling topic that term**. These activities are suggestions and are not compulsory.

Talking to your children about school is vital. Instead of asking the “What did you do at school today?” question with no response, try asking one of the questions below.



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Try using some of these questions instead;

1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?
3. Can you tell me your class topic story?
4. Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
5. Tell me an unusual word you heard today at school?
6. What made you laugh today?
7. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you teach?
8. Tell me about what you read in class. What was it about?
9. Can you tell me about something that made you **curious** today?
10. Did anybody do something **caring** today? What did they do?
11. When were you **creative** today? What did you do?

We want our children to be motivated, **confident**, independent learners. We hope that reading fluently, spelling accurately, recalling times tables facts quickly, completing projects linked to their stories will enable this to happen.

We hope that this letter provides clarity, consistency and manageability.

Best wishes
Charlotte Stewart
Acting Headteacher