



Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Bridson B.A (Hons) PGCE



Learning for life in a positive and caring Christian community



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Thursday 15th September 2016

Dear All

Thank you for your patience whilst the teachers and I have been discussing Home Learning (Homework)! The feedback we gained from parents at the end of last term was very interesting and informed our discussions and decisions! The questionnaires completed by children also helped a great deal. We have taken on board the busy lives people lead and tried to reduce the pressure at weekends. Learning will now be spread out a little more so you can juggle things around!

The demands of the newish curriculum also had an impact on our discussions (as pupils are expected to **know** more at an earlier age) and also the reasons for pupils completing home learning in the first place!

In the past, home learning was set so that pupils got used to the idea and habits of home learning, to prepare pupils for secondary school and beyond! However, the demands are now such that home learning needs to be about the things our children absolutely **must be able** to do, not the *nice to do things*! We need to strike a balance.

As teachers we need to 'cut to the chase' and we are hoping parents will help us to develop the real nitty gritty skills and knowledge our pupils need for the world today. Pupils need to practise reading, spellings and number facts regularly. We need pupils to practise basic skills at home so we can apply them to more complicated scenarios at school.

Over the next few months we will provide you with ideas as to how to support your children to actually LEARN knowledge and be able to recall it quickly. As a school, we really need to improve our recall of multiplication tables and number facts (1000g = 1kg). Our pupils can derive number facts, but they need to be able to recall them without thinking. (If that makes sense?)

Therefore teachers will not be setting written home learning every week. Instead the 'Termly Topic' set by Mrs. Bridson will be compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups. These will be completed in books provided by the school.

The main focus of home learning is now reading, practising spellings and learning number facts.

This term is something of an experiment and I am sure there will be the odd teething trouble until we all get in to the swing of things. If you would like the opportunity to come and find out about this new system please come to: **START OF TERM INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS: THURSDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2016 @19:00 in the SCHOOL HALL.** This meeting will split into two sessions: An EYFS Q & A session and a Home Learning Q & A session for parents of older pupils. If you fall into both categories we will sort a compromise out on the night!

Home Learning for EYFS & KS1 2016

EYFS: Reading (5 times a week) and words, counting backwards and one to one correspondence. (Counting things not just saying numbers)

Year 1: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Abacus online activity.

Year 2: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Abacus online activity.

Home Learning for KS2 2016

Year 3: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Abacus online activity.

Year 4: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Abacus online activity, Termly Topic

Year 5: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Abacus online activity, Termly Topic

Year 6: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Abacus online activity. Termly Topic SAT's practise papers/activities rotation of comprehension, grammar, punctuation & spelling or maths.

Reading

Reading records will be checked once a week on a Monday. Children are recognised for reading 5 times with a sticker. If children read 5 times a week for a term their efforts are recognised with a certificate.

What does reading 5 times a week mean? Reading could be spread over the seven days in a week, or you may read twice in one day if that is easier. Reading will vary according to the age and reading skills of each child. Reading could be sharing a book together, not necessarily the scheme book or the child reading all the words in the book. Children may choose to read an article on the Newsround website (or similar) and this will count as long as a record is made in the Reading Record book. *The Reading Journey* (Helpful hints for reading) booklet is available in the 'Parent Workshop Information' section of the school website.

Spelling

Children will be provided with a weekly set of spellings. This will be in their Spelling Book. Once a week the children will be assessed on these spellings. Stickers will be given for 9 or 10 correct. Stickers will also be given to recognise the children who have practised their spellings regularly and have tried very hard.

What does learning your spelling mean? We do not expect children to just go through the motions of learning their spellings, but to actually take responsibility for their learning and to extend their spelling skills by making an effort to learn new words. Children will be provided with ideas of how to learn spellings.

Maths Booklets

Each maths booklet is named after a different planet and is stuck in back of Spelling Books. The aim of the booklets is for the children to be able to recall number, measure and geometry facts quickly and without thinking. This means being able to say multiplication tables in about 20 seconds and to recall isolated times table facts immediately.

Children need to know all times tables in order before moving on to mixed up, then know all mixed up before recall. Sticker will be given for every times table 'star'.

Inside the booklet are the other number, measure and geometry facts your child needs to know. As parents please tick and initial the boxes 3 times (1 tick/initial = 1 box) to verify your child is able to recall the maths facts being focussed on.

We will trial various ways of communicating the target number facts and times tables over the coming term.

Termly Topic

The Termly Topic this term is to be based on the **LIFE OF A FAMOUS PERSON (dead or alive)!** This is to be completed in the book provided by the school and handed in on **Friday 14th October** to each class teacher.

All children completing the task will be recognised with a certificate and prizes will be presented to those children handing in a 'Top Termly Topic'.

This is compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups. Pupils in the younger year groups will need to ask their teacher for a book to complete the work Termly Topic in as they will not automatically be given one.

Kindest regards
Kay Bridson



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