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Head teacher
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Dear Parents / Carers

Homework

We believe that homework is an important part of the learning process for our children. We have a clear homework policy that is available on the website or from the school office. We are aware that occasionally, homework causes anxiety amongst some families and that defeats the objectives of this policy. I am writing to outline a few key points and expectations to try to alleviate this stress!

The guidelines for the amount of homework children receive are set by government and are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Reception | Building to 10 minutes per day |
| Years 1 and 2 | 1 hour per week |
| Years 3 and 4 | 1.5 hours per week |
| Years 5 and 6 | 30 minutes per day. |

Children should not be expected to spend significantly longer on homework than the guide times above. It does not matter if activities do not take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful. We endeavour to organise homework activities so that children do not receive too much on any one night.

We cannot stress too highly the importance of regular reading at home; this should be encouraged on a daily basis particularly during holiday periods. We do see a marked dip in reading skills / attainment after school holidays. Reading is a necessary and enjoyable activity which can be shared as a family, should you need guidance on this please see your child's teacher.

If your child is fascinated by a topic or task and requests longer to work on it, great! However, if they are finding a task too challenging and are starting to get distressed, let them stop. Sometimes coming back to it later helps, but if you feel that they have tried their hardest and are unable to make progress; just write a note to the class teacher in the Home school liaison book / diary. Children should always be encouraged to complete the homework as soon as it is set, in this way if they find part of it confusing or challenging there is still time to ask the teacher for clarification before the homework is due to be handed in.

We strongly encourage parents to get involved in supporting their child's homework activities. As your child gets older, the amount of independence in completing tasks increases, however parents can still share finished products with their child. Feedback from parents is very important for the child.

We endeavour to give feedback on homework promptly. It will let your child know how well they have done and how they can improve next time. This may not always happen through written comments from the teacher. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons or teachers may give individual verbal feedback.

If you have any concerns about the homework your child is receiving, or you are unsure about how best you can support your child's learning, the first point of contact must always be the class teacher.

The following websites provide further support for parents.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/life/you_and_school/helping_at_home/homework_how_much.shtml

<http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/>

Also Amanda Paterson, our Parent Support Advisor, can advise on homework support

Finally, please remember that homework should be a positive and hopefully fun learning experience to be shared by child and parent!

Yours sincerely,

Joan Hughes, Head teacher