

October 2017

HOMEWORK UPDATE

Of the 157 families we have in school, 26 responded to the consultation on homework which took place at the end of the summer term. Of those, 5 indicated that they had no preference about whether homework continues to be sent home or not, 7 were opposed to the idea of getting rid of homework and 12 were in favour. We can only assume that the other 131 parents who did not respond, did not have any strong opinion one way or the other.

Taking this into account, and the information available from national research regarding the lack of impact of homework, we have decided to go ahead with the proposed changes to homework. However, we have taken the comments parents made into careful consideration when formulating our new policy.

Of the few parents who expressed a wish for homework to continue, the main reasons given were:

- 1) That homework gave parents the opportunity to find out what their child was learning about so that they could offer extra support.
- 2) That homework, particularly in upper KS2, prepared their child for high school so that the level of homework given at high school would not come as a shock.
- 3) That children on the SEN register could be supported at home by parents

We have taken each of these points and tried to put other things in place to address these concerns – see attached policy

We welcome parental support but appreciate that parents can be nervous about supporting their children, particularly with calculation in maths. We have found that sometimes children who are helped at home with calculation become confused, as parents will often teach different methods. We will therefore just inform parents about mental maths as this is easier to work on at home with your child. For parents who really want to work on other aspects of maths, the school calculation policy is on the website and outlines the progressive steps we teach for the four mathematical operations.

Parents who were in favour of homework not being set commented on the following:

- 1) That there should be an expectation that regular (daily) reading should be a high priority. We agree; children who read regularly at home progress more rapidly both in reading itself but also in other subjects because reading is an integral part of accessing the whole curriculum.
- 2) Removing the requirement to complete additional homework would give families / children more time together for extra-curricular activities after school.
- 3) That children need time outside of the school day to develop other aspects of themselves including social, physical and emotional.

We have taken these points into consideration when formulating our new policy- see attached.

We are confident that this shift in emphasis away from compulsory written tasks towards improving reading, developing good communication skills and broadening children's experiences will have a positive impact on children's learning.

Our new policy will be implemented after the October half term holiday and is attached for your information.