



Enriching Learning

Over the last year we have made changes to 'homework' systems in school – firstly making homework accessible online and then developing children's independent learning skills by offering a choice of more open ended learning opportunities.

With the arrival of the new National Curriculum requirements around reading and spelling and raised expectations in maths and English; and extending the work we have been doing in class to ensure children have '*opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning*' and '*that they challenge themselves*' as advised in our last OFSTED report, we have decided to further develop the learning enrichment opportunities we are sending home.

We obviously recognise that children learn best when school and family work in partnership to promote a child's learning and progress. This partnership includes encouraging children to practise, develop and enrich the learning that takes place in school, outside of school.

However we also recognise that repetitious exercises, closed activities, lack of choice and poorly pitched work can simply lead to boredom or frustration for children and their carers, and do not foster the love of learning or independent learning skills we want children to develop.

Therefore we are changing the format and requirements of homework. We will now be informing parents and children of Enrichment Activities for each year group at the beginning of each term. This information will include:

- An age appropriate expectation for shared or independent reading.
- Information on the key focuses for maths, English and topic work, along with links to useful web sites and Apps which will help parents / carers in supporting their children.
- A range of maths, English and topic based activities for children to choose from each week.
- A list of spelling words (some taken from the National Curriculum requirements and some linking to topic work) which children should practice for use in classroom dictation activities (as required by the national curriculum).

- Suggestion for an optional, extended, personal homework activity which will allow children to demonstrate their skills or understanding relating to that term's topic.

These changes are in line with those discussed with parents at the Curriculum Evening in July 2014 and by making 'homework' more flexible in this way, we hope to make it another tool by which children can become more independent learners, practicing the skills they need to work on at an appropriate level and having more choice in how they tackle challenges and present their work. We also hope that offering a range of activities in advance will make it easier for children to select an activity that will 'fit' around other family activities in any given week.

Class teachers will take time to explain 'Enriching Learning' opportunities to children and make clear their expectations. However essentially children in Years 1 to 6 are expected to do the following:

- Reading diaries / journals will demonstrate children are reading as suggested in their Reading Reminder.
- Children will practice spellings given in their Spelling List
- Children will choose and complete one maths, English or topic based activity each week and hand it in on the day specified by their teacher.
- Over the term children will choose a range of maths, English or topic activities.
- Children may choose and / or their teachers or carers may encourage them to additionally practice some of the focus skills.
- Children may choose to complete personalised homework, but this is not a requirement.

Please note children in the Foundation Stage will receive age appropriate homework in line with that above, but without a spelling element.