

Since becoming an Academy, we have been looking at everything we do because we want to see if we can do it better.



This is called the 'Being Brilliant' strategy; well we do have high expectations!

As you know from last term's trial, when we came to Home Learning we felt that it was time for a rethink and so we first thought about why we send work home and decided that it must:

- ☺ Be effective in helping children make progress, often through opportunities to practise
- ☺ Give parents, carers and family members the opportunity to share in the process
- ☺ Continue to give opportunities to practise some basic skills at home
- ☺ Provide engaging tasks for pupils and help build their confidence

We had a lot of very positive feedback following the Home Learning trial last term and from the children too but it also became clear that we need a bit more balance between practical activities and core skills practice. Our more creative approach has a range of activities and tasks that require both independent and collaborative learning, so that all pupils will be able to actively engage and succeed and all parents will be able to take an active part with some aspects. In addition, parents really appreciate supporting their children with basic skills and we shall reintroduce some of these as a balance to the practical activities.

Thank you for your continued support. We shall be pleased to receive any additional feedback at the end of term.



## Parents in Partnership

### Home Learning Update



What a child can do in co-operation  
today they can do alone tomorrow

Lev Vygotsky



Thank you for the feedback you have given regarding the Home Learning tasks set in the Autumn Term. Having also collected the views of staff and pupils, we are now in a position to relaunch Home Learning as a more cohesive package that we feel will support the children in their learning across the curriculum.

Each team have decided upon a different approach to Home Learning to suit the needs and ages of the children. Please see the details below for more information.

#### **Lower School Team: (Nursery, Reception and Year One)**

Home Learning in Lower School will look slightly different in each year group, but with some overarching principles across the team.

In the Orchard, children will have access to 'Together' Home Learning packs, where the emphasis is on learning through play to develop a range of skills. In Reception and Year 1, children will continue to take home a weekly story book to share with parents and, when appropriate, a reading scheme book. In addition, Reception children take home a weekly literacy or numeracy activity, such as a phonic or number game to practise their skills in these areas. Books and activities are changed every Friday in Reception and twice weekly in Year 1 on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Alongside this element of Home Learning, we shall also provide several activities throughout the term that link with our team's current theme and with different areas of the curriculum. The emphasis on these activities will be on 'hands-on', active learning and will always involve interaction with adults at home, as we feel strongly that young children gain most from their learning when they can talk about it with others. We will celebrate this home-learning with the children across each year group and, where appropriate, activities will contribute to children's Learning Diaries.

We feel that this approach to Home Learning will be purposeful and engaging for our children, whilst enabling them to develop key skills and knowledge and make links with their learning in school.

#### **Middle School Team: (Years Two and Three)**

Home Learning in Middle School will be divided into two parts. There will be ongoing maths and English tasks that will be given every fortnight. These tasks will consist of games, activities and challenges that will enable children to practise the skills needed to be confident readers, writers and mathematicians. Tasks will be set and handed in on a Friday. Many of these activities will be games that the children can keep and play at home. Other activities will need to be returned to school for the class teacher to mark. These activities will be kept in a Home Learning folder. The children will be responsible for keeping their folder and handing it in every two weeks. The folder will encourage the children to take pride in their learning and will also act as a mechanism for you to have an overview of the tasks completed and the skills your child is practising.

Reading should still be a daily activity for all children.

The other aspect of the Home Learning follows the model we set last term. During each term we will also set several tasks that allow children to choose the activities they do and allow them to demonstrate other skills. These will be linked to other areas of the curriculum. These tasks will have a longer deadline and will come with success criteria so that you and your child will be clear about the expectations. We will celebrate this Home Learning as a Middle School Team and feedback to you through a comments slip as well as talking with the children.

As a Team, we feel that this structure to Home Learning will support all the different learning styles of the children, will enable them to practise the key skills and will also get them into a routine. We also hope that the timescale will allow the children to work around the other commitments they have outside of school and also take into account the busy life of the family.

#### **Upper School Team: (Years Four, Five and Six)**

Home Learning in Upper School will be divided into two parts. There will be ongoing maths and English tasks that will be given every week. These tasks will consist of activities and challenges that will enable children to consolidate and practise the skills learnt during lessons in order to become confident writers and mathematicians. Tasks will be set and handed in on a Friday and completed in Home Learning books.

Reading should still be a daily activity for all children.

The other aspect of Home Learning follows the model we set last term. During each term we will set a 'Creative project' linked to each Year Group's current theme. This project will allow children to develop and demonstrate other skills and make independent choices about how they wish to learn and present their learning. These tasks will have a longer deadline and will come with success criteria so that you and your child will be clear about the expectations. We will celebrate this Home Learning as an Upper School Team and feedback to you through a comments slip as well as talking with the children.

As a Team, we feel that this structure to Home Learning will support all the different learning styles of the children, will enable them to practise the key skills and will help to prepare children for their transition into Secondary School. We also hope that the timescale will allow the children to work around other commitments they have outside of school and also take into account the busy life of the family.

**The next Home Learning for your child will begin after the half term break.**

**If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.**

**We know how important Home Learning is and we thank you for your continued support.**