



## Homework

We thought it would be helpful as part of the parent consultation process this term if we provided some information about homework. We have expectations for all our children to carry out some school related activities at home, from sharing a book in the early years to regular maths and English work in years 5 and 6. The purpose is to provide children with chances to practice and consolidate their learning, to share their learning with people at home and to encourage them to develop self discipline and independence.

It is really important that children have the opportunity to develop interests and talents outside of school. They must also have time for unstructured play. With this in mind, we try to limit the amount of time children need to spend on homework and would always advocate a little and often approach.

It is our intention that work set for completion at home should provide chances to rehearse and practice concepts that have already been met in school. We also try to provide homework regularly to help your child establish routines. Please contact your child's class teacher if your child appears not to be receiving regular homework in line with the guidance overleaf or if they regularly struggle to complete it independently. If your child is struggling with a particular piece of homework please put a note on the homework itself so that school staff can follow it up.

Some hints for homework

Try to establish routine days and times for completing homework so that:

- Children know what to expect and are not rushed
- Children are not trying to complete too much work in one go
- You can fit it around other out of school activities
- Someone at home can be available to support and monitor the work

Your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks. Please ensure homework is not used as a punishment or threat.

Expectations are obviously different in different classes. The information overleaf is relevant to your child's class.

We are occasionally asked by parents to provide extra homework. It may be possible to do this in individual circumstances if it is in the interests of the child but it is not our policy to provide extra work routinely. With that in mind we have provided some activities overleaf that can be used at home to rehearse and reinforce learning. There are also a number of commercially available books and a sea of apps and online games to choose from. Below is a list of some of the ones we use in school.

Apps: The times spelling bee; kopfnuss (maths); squeebls, harry letters, pocket phonics

Websites: Nessy Tables of Doom (see the school website); oxford owl, weebly, tutpup

### **Expectations and routines for Dinghy Class:**

You should be reading or doing letters and sounds flash cards with your child at least 5 times a week, even if it is just 10 minutes a night. Each time you do either of these with your child write it in the yellow reading record book so we are aware of what is being covered at home. The children that read or do flash cards at home on a regular basis we have found progress much quicker in their reading and writing and their use of language and communication increases greatly.

Additionally each time we learn a new sound in school a sheet on that sound is sent home in your child's book bag. This is so you can talk about the sound at home, practise writing it and then talk about the pictures on the sheet that begin with that sound. This is a great way for your child to talk about what they have learnt in school with you and then reinforce it at home.

**Reading:** Your child should be reading with you as mentioned above, even if it is just a few pages a night.

**Letters and Sounds flash cards:** The flash cards that were sent home included a list of games to use with them. Each time we learn a new sound a sheet is sent home in your child's book bag (as mentioned above). This way you know what new sound to add to your set of flash cards to use with your child.

If you are unsure on how to use the flash cards or reading books please come and see Miss Barley and she can support you with this.

We do not send any mathematics work home in Dinghy Class, but there are lots of things you can do at home to support your children. There are lots of great ways to get your children to understand the value of maths: pointing out numbers in the environment, looking at prices in shops, counting out plates at the dinner table, how many apples do we need to buy? Singing counting songs (caught a fish alive, the animals go in two by two etc). Playing a whole host of games can improve children's logic, problem solving and maths skills e.g. backgammon, go, card games, draughts, lego...etc. You will also find a list of domino games on our website which can help improve logical thinking and mental recall of number facts.