

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your feedback on homelearning last term. We appreciate you taking the time to share your views.

Homelearning is often a part of school life that divides opinion and we recognise that many of our children have very busy lives outside of school, with extra-curricular clubs and quality time with family. It is not our intention to cause unnecessary pressure on family life, but to use homelearning as a way to encourage good habits that will help them in the future.

#### Homelearning grids

We recognise from the detailed feedback from parents that there are mixed opinions about the current version of homelearning grids. There are aspects that parents really like and others that they dislike.

In particular, we can glean that parents would like:

- Keep the standard weekly homelearning tasks: reading, spelling, Mathematics and Times Tables Rock Stars. Parents like this regular homelearning.
- To continue to have an element of choice in other tasks set.
- Differentiated or layered tasks so that children of all abilities have tasks that they can access without huge amounts of support.
- Grids to be always given out on the first week of term (we apologise if this has been late in any classes in the past).
- Children to receive feedback from teachers on the homework and effort they put in – e.g. praise and/or linked to house points.
- Varied tasks that link directly to class learning – parents felt that there was some repetition of task types.
- Grids to be sent out 3 times a year not 6 – parents feel this is too often, as some tasks can take a long time to complete.

When the governors pupil conferenced our Pupil Council recently, they said they enjoy having the grids as they like to be able to choose what they can do and like the chance to be creative. They would like to have the chance to suggest some ideas to go on the grids from time to time. Teachers like the grid as they can choose open-ended tasks that they think the children might enjoy, to provoke further thinking around their projects. In Y6 this term, they have trialled asking the children to suggest a task for each area that they would like to do, which the children enjoyed contributing to.

Taking into account feedback from different groups, we are in the process of updating the format for the new academic year. Therefore the grid that has been sent home this term will be the last one of the year and the last one in the current format. I will share this with Parent Council this term. In particular we plan to:

- Set fewer open ended tasks to be completed during the term (by removing open-ended Maths and English activities – only have set weekly tasks (Mathematics, Times Tables Rock Stars, reading 5 x and spelling). Teachers may supplement this with a specific short-term task for a child/group of children as needed, linked to their developmental needs (eg grammar task for English or a task to challenge a misconception in Maths).
- Have **3** grids a year – provided in the first week of a big term, with two deadlines (towards the end of each short term) for each open-ended task the children chooses, so that they have more time to complete the tasks.
- Layered tasks with a minimum expectation and an extra challenge they could do if they wanted to.

- Include an example, where it might be helpful.
- Teachers will provide written and/or verbal feedback to the children following a deadline.
- Encourage teachers to review the homelearning grids during the year before drafting new one, to avoid repetition of task type.

As the grids have already gone home for this term (with deadlines for the end of this term), we know that many children have got started with their tasks. With this in mind they should bring in the task(s) they are ready to share (1 or more) for this term's deadline. The teachers will set a follow up deadline for the remaining task (1 or more) to be submitted. The teachers will clarify this with classes.

#### Homelearning shares

There was a very clear message from parents that they do not like the homelearning sharing events. We have traditionally offered these as parents valued these in previous years, however it is clear that as the curriculum and project outcomes have developed, parents would now much prefer to come in to share journals and class learning for end of project outcomes (as we do in R and KS1). With this in mind, we will discontinue homelearning shares in KS2 with immediate effect and include opportunities during the next academic year for parents to come in to share their child's journal with them as part of the end of project outcome events.

Children may still be given opportunities to share their homelearning with their peers, following a deadline. The teachers will organise this individually.

Thank you very much for your feedback. We hope that this will lead to changes to the homelearning provision that suit KS2 children and families better.

Kind regards,  
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