



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

13th September 2017

Changes to homework across the school.

At the end of the last academic year the Senior Management Team and Governors held several meetings to discuss and review our Homework policy. Our aim was to review our current practise in order to ensure that homework was both manageable and as effective as possible.

It is evident from our SATS scores and in school monitoring that many pupils do not demonstrate a grasp of multiplication tables or spellings that are now expected for their age.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure that the children have opportunity to learn and practice regularly in these areas, we really do rely on parents supporting their children at home. We believe that homework is an important part of the learning process for your children and will help them to develop and improve in the key areas of reading, spelling and times tables. As a result, we have reviewed our expectations for homework. Each week we are now asking you to support your child with the following:

- 10-20 minutes daily reading with a parent/carer or to a sibling.
- 10 minutes daily Times table multiplication practice
- 10 minutes daily practice of the weekly spelling list

As you will know, we believe strongly in encouraging our children to demonstrate independence and creativity as some of our core values. In addition to the above, each term, the children will work alongside teaching staff to identify and build a 'creative homework menu' from their half termly topic. These will be a selection of learning tasks chosen by the children. Completion of these tasks will enable them to develop range of skills to demonstrate and develop their learning in school. Children will use their independence to select which learning tasks they wish to complete and teachers will discuss this with their children.

Homework subject	Task	Time allocation
Reading	Children must read with an adult. Please sign the planner each time they read.	Daily 10-20 minutes
Maths	Each week children will be given a multiplication tables to learn at home and tested on weekly at school.	Daily 10 minutes practice
Spellings	Each week children will be given a spelling list to learn at home and then tested on weekly at school.	Daily 10 minutes practice



Homework subject	Task	Time allocation
Creative Home Learning Task	Each term a task or multiple tasks can be selected from a menu of activities, which are completed, with parent support at home.	
Year 5/6 only Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	Activities in study guide	Weekly

Optional homework extension:

If you wish your child to have further opportunities to develop their study skills there are a lot of recommended study guides that can be purchased on core topics such as Maths, Writing, Spelling and Grammar. If you wish to discuss these options please feel free to contact Mr Pywell, Mrs Heaney or Mrs Millsted.

If your child enjoys learning on line we update our website regularly to identify websites that are particularly interesting or useful. If you have any recommendations please do let us know.

School planners:

Planners will be used to record spellings and times tables they need to learn each week. If your child has tried their hardest and is unable to make progress; just write a note to the class teacher in their planner. Children will receive spellings linked to statutory and high frequency word lists for their age group.

After school Homework club:

We will continue to run this club every day after school and extend it from 3-4pm. The first half hour of the session will focus on spellings, reading and times tables. The second half an hour will be creative, enabling children to work on their home learning task. Places are allocated and organised by Mrs Rayner and Mrs Harmer.

Parent's forum

On Wednesday 27th September at 2pm and 6pm we will be hosting a Parent Forum on homework. Senior staff will be available to discuss and answer questions you have on this topic and explain our rationale further.

Yours faithfully

Mr S. Pywell

Executive Headteacher