Oaks Class – homework and expectations

Dear parents,

Welcome to the new academic year. Please find attached a separate sheet which shows the main areas that we will be focussing on this term. There will be a ‘meet the teacher’ session after school on Monday 9th September when you will have the opportunity to ask questions or find out more about the expectations for the new academic year.

The aim, for pupils in KS2 is to help them develop their independent learning skills so that they know what to do when they experience difficulties. We will having ‘learning’ conversations in class and pupils will be aware of their targets and encouraged to monitor and talk about their own progress where possible.

The practising of key skills is important in committing facts and strategies to long term memory, freeing up working memory to take new learning on board and tackle more complex problems. Homework has an important role to play in securing these facts and strategies.

The general requirement for pupils in Key Stage 2 is that they spend 30 mins per day on independent learning tasks. Daily reading and maths fluency tasks are expected to take up the bulk of this time.

We have access to a number of online learning resources and each pupil will be provided with login details for these.

Homework books and reading records should be handed in every Wednesday, as new tasks will be set on Thursdays.

**Reading**

All children are expected to read daily for 15 minutes. This should be logged in their reading records. Try to encourage your child to read some fiction and some non-fiction and, if they no longer read aloud to you, encourage them to talk to you about what they have read, encouraging them to note down and look up the meaning of any new words they encounter. I am aware that on some days, children may have activities after school and that reading may not be possible along with a reasonable bed time; however, they must achieve the minimum of 3 reads per week, otherwise they will fail to make the necessary progress.

If they are reading a book that is not registered on the Accelerated Reader system, then they should write a review in their homework book – this will then count towards their termly reading target.

Children will have spellings in their homework books each week which they should practise and secure. Many of these will follow patterns, so they will be encouraged to think of other words that use the same patterns. We also now have a new resource for spellings, enabling pupils to log on at home and practise spellings using games and activities.

**Maths**

We will now be testing children for their maths passports termly during the last week of term. They should therefore work towards securing all the mathematical knowledge for their current passport in readiness for this test.

All children will have a Mathletics login and should spend at least 30 minutes per week working on the online tasks which I will set. They can work through these in any order. Any tasks where they achieve a score below 80% will be reset so that they can try them again.

In order to meet the government requirement of all pupils knowing all their multiplication tables by the end of year 4, we have signed up to an additional resource which provides activities for this crucial area of learning and we would ask you to encourage your child to use this as much as possible.

SumDog is also still available.

Please ask your child to note down in their homework book any maths practice they have undertaken.

**Other**

Other homework tasks may be given as appropriate to support individuals with their learning, reinforce skills that have been taught at school that week, revisit previous skills and learning to keep them ‘fresh’ or encourage independent research.

Pupils are encouraged to speak to me if there if there is any area that they particularly wish to work on. This encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning and I have found that homework tasks set in this way are much more likely to be completed.

I am really looking forward to working with all of the children over the forthcoming academic year and thank you in anticipation of your support,

Mrs. Davies (Oak Class teacher)