

**HANBURY C. E. FIRST SCHOOL**

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18th January 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Homework

As a school we have received many questions about homework. This has been through our parent feedback sources, including feedback to teaching staff and the annual questionnaire. Every year opinion is divided in regards to how much, content and frequency. Homework was recently discussed in the parent rep meeting and as promised I have also reviewed this with staff in order we achieve continuity.

There are number of reasons why homework is set; to reinforce concepts taught in class, usually in that week; to practice a skill which is essential to the progress of your child and to prepare them for middle school and high school where homework is an integral part of learning, especially at major stepping stones e.g. Year 6 and Year 11.

At Hanbury First School we believe in homework and the many benefits it brings to your child's education but we also believe it is age appropriate and *should not dominate valuable home life or put your child under stress*. Managing homework is about organisation, routine and meeting a deadline, working with your child to teach them these life skills we feel are important.

Reading

Reading is essential to the development of your child from learning their initial sounds in Reception and essential words to understanding text in Year 4. We recommend you read with your child 10 minutes at least 5 days per week. The reading and discussion of the text should be with an adult. Reading should be given top priority.

Phonics and Spelling

The phonics and spelling logs are also essential. This varies from Reception to Year 4 but experience has shown those children who learn their key words have more confidence while writing and will produce more. This aids fluency of your child's writing without stumbling over common words. In order to prepare pupils for middle school.

Year 4 have an additional piece of literacy homework that supports and consolidates the learning in class.



Maths

Maths is normally either an investigation or practise of a method supporting the learning objectives your child has covered in class during the week.

Topic

We feel topic is an important part of our homework framework. We introduced this for several reasons.

- To give your child an opportunity to read around and investigate areas of the topic they find interesting.
- To give them a choice of curriculum areas e.g. art, DT, maths, etc.
- To give you, as a parent, the opportunity to work with your child and discuss a topic which they are exploring in school.

This last point is the most important, as the topic work should be working with your child helping them learn and improve their skills. It should be their work with your help. It should not be onerous and the length of time is determined by you. If your child wants to build a detailed model of a castle which takes all day, that is fine, but a junk model which has been made solely by the child in 30 minutes is ok as well.

To conclude we have decided to reduce the topic homework from four pieces per term to two, this will start from Spring Term.

Remember:

Priority 1 - Reading and ideally should be small amounts of time at least 5 times per week.

This must happen in Years 3 and 4 as well-as Years R, 1 and 2.

Priority 2 - Phonics and Spelling Challenge.

Priority 3 - Maths

and finally topic.

Remember, every child is different. Set a routine for homework.

Kind regards



Andrew Payne
Head Teacher