

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School



To Love and Serve as Jesus Shows Us

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Friday 3rd November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

HOMEWORK

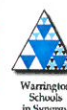
Thank you for your feedback on homework either in writing or through the Parents' Forum held last half term. Based on the feedback received we are now able to re-start homework so that it is clear and consistent across the school. The vast majority of parents who fed back during consultation agreed that homework was important for a number of reasons:

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school.
- To extend or prepare for school learning and give children an opportunity to demonstrate their talents and skills.
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the independence, confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

Views on amount and regularity of homework did vary, and decisions around this have been based on the majority view, but also with consideration of the workload for teachers.

With all of this considered, later in this is a progression of homework that will be set throughout the school starting from next week. All homework will be sent home on a **Friday**. Any homework sent home weekly will be for reinforcement and consolidation, and therefore *we do not require this to be returned*. However, in Year 5 and 6, in helping to get children prepared for Secondary School, we do ask that these tasks are returned the following Wednesday.

Reading practice and listening to others read is essential throughout school and will form part of ongoing homework. Children must read with an adult a minimum of 3 times each week and this must be recorded in their diary. The class teacher will respond to comments where appropriate, but not always. Home reading books should be in school daily so that should the opportunity arise, children can read to an adult in school. Children should read and listen to a range of texts, not necessarily always provided by the school. It is also important that children are encouraged to make use of the library.



Each half term, the children will also be set homework linked to the wider curriculum, giving them the opportunity to prepare for, extend, apply and celebrate their wider learning, talents and skills. Curriculum homework will be based on Blooms' Taxonomy of thinking skills, which includes 6 types of thinking: *knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, evaluation and synthesis*. In Key Stage 1, the teacher will set tasks from which the children choose what to do. In Key Stage 2, the teacher will set a homework question for the children to answer as they choose. This homework will be sent home during the final week of each half term along with the curriculum newsletter for the following half term. Any topic based tasks can be returned to school at any point before the completion date set by the class teacher. This homework will be celebrated either through sharing with others or displaying it, whichever is most appropriate.

Summary of Homework Progression

	Reading	Spelling, punctuation and grammar	Maths	Wider curriculum
Rec	Ongoing reading as outlined above	Weekly key words / phonics	Number games / maths investigations	"Things to do at home this half term"
Y1				Set of tasks based on Bloom's Taxonomy from which children choose what to complete
Y2		Ongoing times tables practice: 2, 5 and 10 Problem of the week		
Y3			Ongoing times tables practice: 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 Problem of the week	
Y4				
Y5		Ongoing times tables practice: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Problem of the week		
Y6			Weekly English tasks	Weekly Maths tasks


In addition, feedback highlighted that parents would like more information about learning taking place in school. We have already shared long-term overviews for the year. We have also introduced the half term overviews which are now sent home in the final week of each half term, to share learning that will take place in the next half term. The school website will be populated with this, and additional information as soon as possible and we are in the process of deciding how to re-introduce the class blogs for Years 1 to 6, ensuring that keeping them up to date is manageable and useful. Reception parents will shortly have access to their child's "Tapestry" timeline (more information to follow).

The information on the school website will include the following:

- Long term overview of the year for each class
- Half-term overviews of learning for each class plus topic homework set
- Age related expectations for reading, writing and maths for each year group
- Where appropriate, a progression showing the build up towards achieving these end of year expectations
- Guidance for parents in relation to strategies used for teaching concepts in English and Maths
- Our school Twitter feed to share ongoing activities within school

I trust that the progression of homework agreed and the information to be shared via the website, will meet as many of the views as possible shared during our consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D. Vernon', followed by a small dash.

Dominic Vernon
Interim Headteacher