



Wednesday 14th December 2022

Dear parents/carers

Homework Provision Review

Following the parental survey, we amended our homework provision for this academic year and agreed reading and Numbots/Time Table Rock Stars would be carried out at home daily. Children would be rewarded in school if they showed four lots of engagement each week in these online Reading and Maths apps. On top of this, we would provide either a weekly maths or English task. The consensus was very much about rewarding children rather than giving consequences for not completing homework.

As we near the end of the first term, we felt it was important to share an update on how the homework is going. Generally, the English and Maths tasks are being handed in weekly by the children. This is great news and hopefully the feedback that class teachers are providing in their marking is useful.

Unfortunately, the engagement with the online apps – Boom Reader and NumBots/Times Table Rockstars – has declined this term. We are extremely concerned about this deterioration and the impact this is having on children's learning.

Daily reading is key to unlocking the curriculum and children should be reading a minimum of 4 times a week. This should be recorded on Boom Reader as it is school's only record that it is happening. The more fluent and confident a child's reading, the more they will excel in their learning. As a school, we rely on parents supporting us with the key skill.

Similarly, practising number bonds and times tables increases rapid recall and unlocks so much more of the Maths curriculum. If children have strong mathematical fluency, they are able to focus on new learning by applying known facts and relationships. If their Maths fluency is weak, they heavily rely on resources and struggle with new concepts.

We wholeheartedly respect the views of parents and want to focus on the rewarding of efforts rather than consequences. However, if we do not see a significant improvement in the engagement with these apps next half term, we will look to change this policy. Please help us to ensure that children utilise the learning tools on offer to them.

Kind regards

Mrs Julie Lewry
Headteacher