

Homework - Foundation stage

We do not have a set pattern or rigid structure for homework within our foundation stage as the children come into school with very individual learning needs.

We encourage you to make any homework given a very positive experience with lots of praise, reward and discussion about their learning. Encourage the children to: -

- **Try their very best at all times.**
- **Be proud of their achievements**

Learning together is the emphasis for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together and phonics. Maths's activities may be sent out as and when these are deemed appropriate.

Reading

In Foundation Stage, parents will be informed of the graphemes/phonemes and tricky words that the children are learning in school as they are learnt in lessons. Starting in the autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways: -

Adults reading to children_

- Parents are encouraged to share books from their own homes, the School Library and other Library facilities. They are also asked to share reading in the environment when it is appropriate i.e. signs and captions in the street. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is important.

Children reading to an adult.

- When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to 'read' to an adult. Some of the books in the first term will be 'text-less books' - much valuable conversation and discussion can be had about the pictures and the layout of the book. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.
- After 'text-less books' children will receive book with words. Typically, children will receive 2 books per week.
 - One book will be fully decodable, meaning that your child will be able to segment and blend each word as these are matched to the current phonic level.
 - One book will contain 'context words', these are listed on the inside cover of every book. An adult should read these words for the child to copy. These 'context words' aim to increase vocabulary.

Tricky words.

Children learn to read tricky words as part of 'Red Rose Letters and Sounds' phonics scheme. Parents will be sent a list of the tricky words for each phase after the children have learned them. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before Year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

Letter formation.

Children will receive letter formation cards and rhymes, which complement the Red Rose Letters and Sounds phonics scheme.

We ask that at home parents encourage the children to write/mark make at every opportunity.

Make it fun: -

- Shopping lists
- Letters to Father Christmas/Tooth Fairy
- Writing birthday cards
- Using a clip-board to make lists of all the insects they can find in the garden
- Writing a postcard
- Writing in the sand on the beach
- Making letters and numbers out of Playdough

Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively so they don't fall into bad habits.

Numeracy

We encourage parents to count with their children up to twenty and to also encourage their children to read and write numbers. Throughout the year parents may be sent tasks linked to numeracy in class. However, there are lots of games that you can play: -

- Bingo
- Snakes and ladders
- Snap with number cards
- IPAD Apps
- Pairs - with numbers
- Looking for shapes around and about - (square window etc.)
- Money - recognising coins and counting