

## Homework at St John's

Dear parents

Thank you to all of you who completed the recent homework survey - it provided some really useful feedback. As you can imagine, there was a wide range of responses with some saying their children really enjoy the use of Doodle and that it helps their learning while others report that their children find it repetitive and limiting. This reflected much of the feedback we got from the pupil survey.

All of the teachers have met to discuss the feedback from the surveys to try and find a solution that provides a better balance to what is offered whilst minimising the amount of paper being sent out each week! After much discussion, we have agreed that we will do the following:

- ***Homework will be set weekly on a Friday via Seesaw and needs to be submitted by the following Wednesday.*** If you are not sure how to access Seesaw, please speak with your child's teacher who can help you.
- Maths homework will alternate weekly with one week being paper based and the alternate week being online.
  - When children are given paper based maths tasks, these will link to what has been taught that week and will include questions related to reasoning and fluency.
  - The online maths will focus on the use of Doodlemaths using 5 a day and other tasks.
  - *Many children also really enjoy using TT Rockstars and Numbots so we are also asking children to try these each week – the instructions on Seesaw will explain if there is a challenge to beat their teacher or another class!*
- Doodle spell activities will be set every week.
- Writing homework will be related to what has been taught in class – it should be not too long and could focus on aspects of grammar or improving sentences and paragraphs. We feel it is important to allow children to focus on their handwriting and presentation given that much of their other learning is online. *Children should take time to ensure that the quality of what is written is their best work.*
- Reading should be done **daily** and parents / children are asked to write in their reading record books regularly (most days). ***We are now asking that children bring their reading books and record books in to school each day.***
- Each half term there will be a longer piece of homework linked to their topic – this may be a research project on a practical task and will often be cross curricular and more 'open' than the weekly tasks. This is an opportunity for children to develop their independence and creativity.
- Children will be using the homework folders that we previously used for the occasions when they have a paper based task for writing or maths. These folders also have all their passwords on. If you can find their old one and send it back in to school that would be very helpful.

We want children to gain a sense of achievement from their homework and hope the following tips may help:

- Break it up in to smaller tasks that can be completed over several days rather than tackled all in one go
- Find somewhere quiet away from distractions (especially TV!) to help them focus
- Encourage them to be as independent as they can, tackling the tasks themselves. Just use questioning or modelling when they need it and don't do the homework for them!
- Have high standards – if your child has produced careless or messy work, consider if they need to re-do it. If the teacher thinks that your child's homework is not their best, they may be asked to re-do it in school.
- Celebrate their achievements with them when they have completed their work - it's important they know that both teachers and family want them to succeed.

As always, if you do have any questions or thoughts about homework or anything else, do speak with your child's teacher so that things can be addressed quickly and successfully.

Thanks you

Mr Welsh and the St John's staff team.