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Dear Parents and Carers,

In order to minimise the number of books going back and forth between home and school, we have had to make a few changes to how we set and mark homework. We hope you find this letter informative in outlining these changes. As before, homework will be set each Wednesday and is due in the following Monday.

We have decided to utilise Google Classroom where possible and therefore, home learning books are to **remain at home** after today. All children have had the chance to log on to Google Classroom since returning to school and familiarise themselves with it again after the summer break. As well as minimising books and folders going to and from school, should another lockdown situation occur, we will be confident that our children are proficient in using Google Classroom.

As some homework tasks need to be uploaded to Google Classroom, we are asking for your support with this by taking a *clear* photograph of your child's homework and uploading this to the 'assignment' set on Google Classroom. Please have a look on your child's class page on Google Classroom for instructions on how to do this. It really is very simple and just takes a few steps. Any homework which we are asking to be uploaded, needs to be done so by 8:30am on the Monday morning. We know that homework can sometimes be a stress and we really don't want to add to this, so please get in touch if you are having difficulties – we are here to help!

Reading

At the front of your child's reading journal, you will find some questions for each of the eight reading skills that children are taught in the reading curriculum and that they are tested on in Key Stage Two (KS2). All of these skills combined are what makes a rounded, critical reader and in turn, a stronger writer. By asking your child a question from each of these areas over the course of the week, you will be mirroring the type of questions asked in school. Writing their direct response to the question is great evidence and we encourage this type of response recorded in their reading journal.

As they become older and move into upper KS2, they will become more independent in their reading but please encourage them to continue to read aloud at times to develop fluency, intonation and expression. It's also great for them to hear you read aloud too and set the example as the reading expert! For novels, sometimes it's nice to read a paragraph each and then swap, which they are very used to doing during reading lessons in school. This can also help enormously in understanding the rules of dialogue, so we would really encourage this way of reading with your child. We feel it makes it more enjoyable and interactive for the both of you too!

Since returning to school, all children have read to their class teachers and now have a sticker in their reading journal indicating the colour of book they are to take home. The book banding is not an exact science, but groups books of a similar reading stage and complexity together. Please don't be concerned if you notice that your child has remained on the same colour for a while; children will move through the colours at a slower pace than in Key Stage One as there are only a few colours across the entire four years in the key stage.

As books are returned to school, they will be quarantined before being returned to the class book corner. The same applies to library books.

Spellings

As well as a *Readiwriter* activity, children will be asked to use their spelling words in a short writing task, which will vary from week to week. Your child's teacher will set clear instructions on Google Classroom for this. This task is to be completed in their home learning book and a photo uploaded to the assignment folder. All children in KS2 will be tested on their spellings each Wednesday.

Maths

Part of the mastery approach to mathematics is ensuring that children become fluent in basic mathematical facts so that, when required, they can quickly recall these and use them.

Children will continue to have homework set on *Mathletics* each week, which consolidates learning that has taken place in school. In addition to this, and to support them with learning their times tables, we have also included a subscription to *Times Tables Rock Stars* for all children in KS2. This is a great online resource where children practise their times tables recall through fun games.

Feedback

Feedback on homework will be given in class on an individual, group or whole class basis depending on the need and a score out of 10 will be awarded for effort on Google Classroom.

If your child does not complete homework or it is not uploaded, they will have to complete it during lunch time.

To make it clear, we have included a table on the opposite page which sets out your child's weekly homework activities for each year group along with what needs to be uploaded to Google Classroom. We hope this is helpful for you. On occasion, we may set extra homework if we feel it is necessary.

We thank you in advance for your support with these changes.

Key Stage Two Team

Key Stage Two Homework

Years 3 & 4

Subject	Activity	Extra info
Reading	Daily reading Reading journal/comprehension task x1	Minimum of three comments each week by the child and one comment from parent /carer, or more if possible. Task will be uploaded to GC as an assignment on Wednesday. Complete task in home learning book and upload photograph to GC by 8:30am the following Monday.
Spellings	Readiwriter activity Spelling/writing task	https://login.readiwriter.com Task will be uploaded to GC as an assignment on Wednesday. Complete task in home learning book and upload photograph to GC by 8:30am the following Monday.
Maths	Mathletics activity Times Tables Rock star	https://www.mathletics.com/uk/ https://trockstars.com

Years 5 & 6

Subject	Activity	Extra info
Reading	Daily reading Comprehension task x1	Minimum of three comments each week by the child and one comment from parent /carer, or more if possible. In order to support with exam technique, children will be given a paper copy, which is to be returned on Monday. Time will be given to mark as a class and they will file the sheet away themselves.
Spellings	Readiwriter activity Spelling/writing task	https://login.readiwriter.com Task will be uploaded to GC as an assignment on Wednesday. Complete task in home learning book and upload photograph to GC by 8:30am the following Monday.
Maths	Mathletics activity Times Tables Rock star	https://www.mathletics.com/uk/ https://trockstars.com
BNC	Contributions on the hub	https://burnetnewsclub.com

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