



Mesne Lea Primary School

Working together for individual excellence

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8 November 2018

Homework

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had many discussions and debates, with staff parents and children, regarding homework and homework expectations, in an effort to determine what is best for our school, pupils and families.

We have therefore, decided to implement a few changes to our existing homework policy. This year, we are having a real push on ensuring the basics are practised at home: regular reading and times tables. Research shows that children who read widely generally have more success. We are therefore asking all pupils to read nightly and for you to talk with your child about the book which in turn helps with their comprehension and general oracy skills. We ask for ALL children to have their diary signed 3 times a week and develop a real love of reading.

For those that want a little more, there are optional activities on Spelling Shed and Times Tables Rock Stars - you will receive a copy of your child's passwords for these sites in their homework diaries shortly.

Research has been unable to prove homework and in particular spelling homework improves pupil's performance. For many children (and parents) this is a time-consuming task which for many children does not impact on their spelling within classroom writing tasks. We feel we can better utilise the time spent on giving out, collecting in and processing spelling tests by giving the children more time teaching spelling – rather than just testing it. Therefore, the children will no longer be sent weekly spellings home. The year group spellings that the children need to know can be found on the school website and will be given to the children in their diaries.

Project homework will still continue. It is very clear that the children enjoy doing this and often families work on various projects together. This again positively impacts on the children and their love of learning. Topic webs will be sent out on the last day, prior to a holiday for the children to bring in after the half term. There may on occasion be whole school projects sent home throughout the year.

Our policy makes it very clear that the rationale for homework is:

- To give children the opportunity to share their learning with their parents, to develop their confidence and achieve to the best of their ability.
- To extend children's learning and consolidate and reinforce their skills and understanding of a topic.
- To encourage children to make the best use of the many learning resources available both at home and in the community, e.g. local libraries.
- To develop children's confidence and self-discipline so that they may study independently, thus preparing them for their secondary schooling and lifelong learning.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Finlay
Headteacher



Only 187 out of nearly 17,000 schools in the country achieved 100% Level 4B+ in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Well done Mesne Lea Primary School!

Congratulations from Nick Gibb MP (January 2016)