



Peace, Love, Service - a Church of England School

Little Thetford C of E Primary School
Green Hill
Little Thetford
Ely
CB6 3HD

Headteacher: Mr J Wallace

Tel No: 01353 649260

Email: office@littlethetford.cambs.sch.uk

Homework Update

Friday 28th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to you about the changes we have decided to make regarding the provision of homework this year.

Homework is something we do feel can consolidate learning in school but we are also conscious of the extra stress and workload it places on the children, yourselves as parents and the teachers. In addition to this, several pieces of recent research have indicated that homework in the primary phase has minimal impact in terms of supporting children's achievement and progress. Conscious of these factors, as well as the fact I know many of our parents and children welcome homework and benefit from completing it, we have decided to make the following changes:

Spellings – Spellings will continue to be sent home every Friday for Year 1- Year 6 and these will be tested on the following Friday as they are now. The change we have decided to make is that spellings will always match what the children are learning in school as we have introduced discrete spelling lessons this year. The other thing that will look different is that the spelling list will come home each week alongside a spelling menu encouraging children to learn their spellings in a more hands on creative way.

Maths/Times tables – The national curriculum expectation is that children should know all of their times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4 and the government are set to introduce an assessment at the end of Year 4 to test children against this requirement. Conscious that this is a challenging expectation, we have decided to ask children from Year 2 – Year 6 to learn a specific sets of tables each week which will be tested each Friday. The learning of these will be computer based with children being provided logins to practice these at home using games focused on their target set of tables. Logins and further information will come out about this shortly. Children in Year 1 will be asked to play specific games and activities online linked to the learning of key number concepts such as number bonds. These will not be tested.

Other subjects - Homework around the other subjects will be via a termly optional menu of different activities the children can do. Although these are ultimately optional, these tasks will consolidate and supplement what children have learnt in school and we would encourage children to complete one of the activities each week. These are slightly different to the homework projects which we do in the summer term, with the focus here being more paper based and on children being more independent in completing these tasks.

Spellings will be sent home in their new format today and the optional menu for other subjects will come home on Monday and will therefore start from this point. The children will be tested on their spellings for the first time using this format on Friday 5th October.

As the times table programme needs to be set up and children need to be baseline assessed on this, this home work will begin the week beginning 8th October with the first test being on Friday 12th October.

In making these changes, we do appreciate the need to prepare our Year 6 children for upcoming statutory assessments as well as the homework demands of secondary school. We therefore intend to supplement Year 6 homework from the beginning of the spring term to help children prepare for this. At this point I would also stress that this letter doesn't apply to children in our Reception class. Mrs Walker will be in contact in the spring term to let you know about home activities she would like children to complete to supplement their learning at school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Walker', written in black ink.