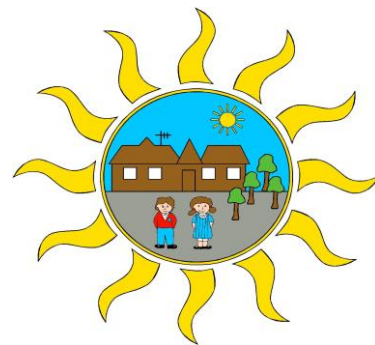


STEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher
Mrs Sally Dreckmann

21 September 2017

Homework Policy Review

Dear Parents,

Homework is a word that strikes fear into the heart of many, including teachers! There is a wide range of opinion regarding homework, from those who think we should not be expecting primary aged children to do any, through to those who think we don't give children enough work in preparation for secondary school. We are never going to please everyone!

Each year we review our policy on homework and this year we have decided to take a really good look at this area rather than just carrying on doing what we have always done. For us, homework is about giving children an opportunity to practice skills learned in school at home with their parents and carers, or an opportunity to create a piece of work to supplement in-school learning, for example a mini project, again with the support of parents and carers.

Through several informal conversations that my teachers and I have had with parents it is clear that many struggle with homework because they cannot give their child time to sit down with them and support them as they do the work; as a working parent with three children I completely understand this. But from our perspective, we don't see much academic value in sending home worksheets that a child can sit down to and complete on their own with no adult input – they can clearly already do what is being asked of them and so they don't need to practice it any more. As a result of this, we have (at least for the time being) cut down the homework expectations in Key Stage 2 (Badgers and Foxes). They remain the same in Rabbits and Owls.

For us, if children can learn and know their times tables (especially as from 2019 all children in Year 4 will have to take a statutory online tables test), learn spellings or phonic sounds so that spelling is not the reason they do not meet End of Year Expectations in writing, and read regularly to develop a love of books and reading, then we would be more than happy. A strong and consistent focus on the basics will greatly benefit your child in class far more than a worksheet will. However, the education of your children is a partnership between home and school and so we would like to ascertain your views on homework too, with the caveat that as already stated, we will never be able to please everyone so there will have to be compromise and negotiation on both sides!

This is an open invitation to all parents to put in writing their views / thoughts / opinions regarding homework. Please send your comments back via the parent post box. If you have comments to



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make, I would appreciate having them by half term (Thursday 19 October). This then gives the staff and I time to read and discuss them.

I would then like to make homework the focus of the next Parent Forum meeting on Monday 4th December at 3.40pm – there will be a crèche. Following this discussion, we will then re-review our homework policy again in January to try and meet the views of the majority of the whole school community. We look forward to working with you on this aspect of your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Sally Dreckmann

Homework Comments Response

Child(ren)'s names and year groups:

Comments / thoughts / suggestions:

Signed:

Name: