



Somers Park School

Email: office@somerspark.worcs.sch.uk
Somers Park Avenue, Malvern, Worcs

Executive Headteacher: Mr. Chris Hansen BEd (Hons) NPQH
Head of School; Mr Byron Williams BEd (Hons) NPQH



Dear parents and carers,

It has been a pleasure to show Mr Dafydd Lawday around school a couple of times over the last few weeks. Dafydd is Mr Sewell's replacement as the CEO of the Mercian Educational Trust and he is keen to get to know the school. He comes with over 20 years of educational experience, including Headship and Executive Headship of outstanding schools. I will be working closely with him to continue to enhance the excellent education we provide for your children at Somers Park.



Interesting Science in Year 1

Homework Policy

You will remember that we asked for your opinions about homework prior to Christmas through an online survey. The response was overwhelming, with 144 people sharing their opinions which, as you may expect, were very varied. Since then we have also gained the opinions of the staff through a similar survey and of the children through the School Council.

The policy we have formulated considers all of these views in deciding how we can make homework most valuable to learning without impacting negatively on family life or a child's wellbeing.

The policy is based around the principle of high quality, focused and regular homework, prioritising developing competence and a love of reading, fluency in mathematics and a sound understanding of spelling. We also acknowledge the importance of developing independent and creative learners, and have woven this in through termly project-style homework.

We have shared the policy with the School Council, who have given us this response to share with you:

'Dear parents,

Recently, pupils, teachers, parents and guardians have been given a homework survey to ask their opinions about the homework the children are given.

After this, School Council had an important meeting with Mr Williams and we have now decided on a new Home Learning Policy which looks like this:

You will now be receiving your weekly spellings, 20mins of reading every night and if you are in Year 3 and 4 you will get times tables to practice once a week but if you are in Year 5 and 6 then you will receive homework related to maths facts and calculations once a week.

For the final part of our home learning, we will be set whole school, open-ended projects to complete over each half term. These will have a theme for the children to demonstrate their creativity in the projects they produce. Parents will be invited into school to see these and the children will also be able to visit other classes to see the work that other children have made.

The school council are very pleased with the outcome of the homework surveys.

*By Emma Denman, Sophia Leatham, Izzy Cale and Georgia Phillips
(Year 6 School Council Representatives)*

Newsletter: Spring 3
Friday 19th January 2018



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The Home Learning Policy accompanies this newsletter and begins next week.



Year 1 have been learning about Queen Elizabeth I

Making learning real in RE!

We love it when our pupils go that extra mile to enrich their learning. Sam, from Year 6, made the choice to do that for his recent work in RE- here's a little report about what he's been up to!

'In RE we have been studying commitment and how Muslims show commitment through the 5 Pillars, particularly fasting through the month of Ramadan.

So on Saturday 13th January, I did a fast to see how hard it is to do for a whole day (Muslims do it for a whole month every year!). In the morning I had to wake up at 6:00 to have a bowl of cereal when it was dark. Then, when it was light, all day I didn't eat anything and had only a little water for lunch. At the start, I was very hungry and nearly ate something but, after a while it started not to hurt and I found it began to feel normal again.

Even though I didn't eat I went out walking on the hills to really test what it would feel like for a whole month. Surprisingly, it didn't make a difference and I felt like I had eaten normally all day. Then, at around 7:30 when it was dark again, I had my first meal since

breakfast. I had a normal meal and didn't eat much after. I now know how committed Muslims are to the five pillars and their religion.'

Sam Kelm 6ME (Well done Sam! Mr H)

Term dates

Following on about term dates from last week's letter, we have now secured the staff training so have confirmed the INSET day on 23rd November.

Breakfast Radio

This afternoon we've had a reporter from BBC Hereford and Worcester in to talk to us about PE in schools. It will form a part of the breakfast programme on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Chris Hansen

Coming up....

Date	Event
Friday 26 th January	Year 4 Dance Festival @ Dyson Perrins
Friday 26 th January	4pm- Year 2/3 Hockey tournament at MSJ
Tuesday 6 th February	2:30pm- Year 4 boys hockey tournament @ The Elms

Tweet of the Week...



This week on Twitter we had a response from Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell, about the excellent work of our Eco Committee.



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