



Summary of Parent Forum 17.01.19

One Parent Forum was held at 6pm. 10 children were represented at the Parent Forum. The morning Parent Forum had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The focus for the Parent Forum was 'Homework'.

1. Why do we have homework?

Parents discussed this in small groups, the following reasons were given:

- To get children into good habits ready for Secondary School
- To involve parents in their child's learning
- To enable parents to see what their child is learning in school and how well they are doing
- To give children the opportunity to practise their learning at home

It was agreed that the statement in the school policy covered all these points:

Homework is a way of consolidating children's skills and understanding by extending learning at home with parental support.

Homework develops working habits, self-discipline, extends skills eg reading, and provides additional time for cognitive learning.

By offering homework we aim to:

- Improve quality of learning.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, pupils and school to work in partnership.
- Prepare pupils for working on their own initiative.
- Prepare Year 6 for secondary school experiences.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills pupils have.
- Emphasise the importance of learning.

2. What homework will children in each year group be set?

Parents were given a copy of the draft Homework Policy and asked to comment in small groups on the expectations for certain year groups.

- **Reception** – Daily phonics, reading book (when children are ready), maths challenge (when children are ready).
- **Year 1** - Daily phonics, reading book, number bond/times table practice and maths challenge
- **Year 2, 3 and 4** –Weekly spellings, reading book, number bond/times table practice, maths challenge and topic activity.

- **Year 5 and 6** - Weekly spellings, reading book, times table practice, maths challenge, topic activity. Children in Year 5 and 6 will be expected to complete their homework in a lunchtime, if they do not complete it at home.

Parents felt that the expectation were about right for each year group. It was felt that there needed to be an expectation that computers be used for some homework in Year 5 and 6 to prepare the children for Secondary School and it was agreed that this will be added to the policy.

The use of online programmes to support learning was discussed and the school will be investigating online programmes to support Reading and Maths for children as they move in to Year 1.

3. Timings for homework

The draft policy states, 'Teachers will aim to set homework on a Friday and it should be handed in on a Tuesday.'

Parents felt that some of the homework, for example spellings and times tables, could be staggered, otherwise it may be difficult for some families to complete homework by Tuesday. It was agreed that this may be better for teachers as well but that it would need to be a consistent day each week, so the policy will be reworded to reflect this.

Parents also asked about whether children in After School Club could have the opportunity to do homework there. This has now been discussed with After Club staff and it has been agreed that they will have a table set up for children to do homework if they want to.

4. Consequences of not doing homework

The school policy was discussed:

'Consequences for failure to do set homework will be negotiated within each class at the beginning of the year. In Years 5 and 6, children who do not complete their homework will be expected to complete their homework at lunch with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.'

Parents felt that this prepared the children for Secondary School, however they did not want it to be called detention. It was explained that it would be a 'Homework Catch Up Club' and that staff would be available to support the children during this period. Children could also choose to attend if they wanted to complete homework in school. It would not be called a detention.

5. AOB

It was explained that adverts for teachers for next year will be online by the end of January to ensure that the school continued to recruit high quality staff.

Date and times of next Parent Forum: Thursday 9th May 2019 at 9am and 6pm.

A note will be sent out at the beginning of the Summer Term for suggested agenda items.