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Dear Parent,

We are pleased to be able to provide you with notes of our recent evening on the home/school partnership regarding homework.

At the evening the role of homework was discussed with 3 key areas being outlined;

- ✓ To support and reinforce work done in lessons
- ✓ To promote and establish good study habits leading into secondary school
- ✓ To strengthen the home/school link
- ✓ The homework policy is available on request

The importance of supporting learning at home in the early years was explained by Mrs Payne;

- ✓ The telling and retelling of nursery rhymes, with an emphasis on the rhythm of the words supports the acquisition of reading skills
- ✓ The use and identification of number in 'everyday' life
- ✓ The support for the word sounds and blends that are sent home and the reading scheme

Miss Lane outlined the homework routines in KS 1

Year 1

- ✓ Reading daily- ten minutes
- ✓ Spelling Bugs- ten words

Year 2

- ✓ Reading daily- ten minutes
- ✓ Homework books- go home on Wednesdays, collected on Mondays
- ✓ Spelling Lists- First Steps Strategies

Mr Paul presented the Yr 3 and 4 homework timetable

	Year 3	Year 4
Monday	Maths (20 minutes) Give in Wednesday	Maths (20/30 minutes) Give in Wednesday
Tuesday		
Wednesday		English (20/30 minutes) Give in Friday
Thursday	English (20 minutes) Give in Monday	Foundation or Science Give in following Monday
Friday		
Ongoing/ Daily	Reading, Spelling, Tables	Reading, Spelling, Tables

Miss Cook explained the homework timetable in Yr 5 and 6

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Yr 5	Maths For Weds		Literacy For Fri	Other For Mon	
Yr 6	Maths For Weds	Other For Thurs	Literacy For Fri	Science For Mon	

Mrs Tuck also explained that children who need more support will receive work that matches their level of understanding and supports their learning needs.

Lastly, ways in which the home and school can work in partnership were explained

- ✓ The importance of regular communication was discussed, and the role of the homework diary was outlined. It was explained that both the home and school should use the diary to voice any school concerns that there may be, and that this could often be a quicker and more efficient way of dealing with issues.
- ✓ The continuous assessment form in the diary was explained.
- ✓ The creation of the right environment for homework was stressed; the need for a suitable work space, the elimination of distractions, the availability of adult support etc.
- ✓ The level of adult support to give was explained. It was suggested that this should be the same as you would expect the class teacher to give. 'Doing' the homework for the child is not helpful as it may give a distorted view of their ability.
- ✓ Advice was given on avoiding 'homework wars' and maintaining family life
 - i. Ensure that you stick to the time guidance of 20/30 minutes (up to 40 minutes in year 6). It was stressed that homework should be judged by the time spent on it NOT necessarily the completion of the task.
 - ii. If your child is clearly struggling with the task do not persevere at the expense of both the child's and your happiness (and sanity!). Rather, let the class teacher know as this is valuable information about the level of understanding they have.
 - iii. The homework timetable has been designed to allow the children to pursue their other interests; no homework is asked to be handed in the next day. It was stressed that outside interests are paramount to a child's development and must be maintained.
 - iv. It was also recognised that homework will on occasion clash with family life or event, on the odd occasions where this happens we would always expect family life to take precedent. All we ask is that you let us know. No homework will be set over the holidays.

The meeting closed with a request to keep in touch with us about your child and an advance notice that this term we shall be arranging a reading workshop in which advice on supporting your child's reading will be given.

We hope you find these notes useful and are as always very grateful for all the ways in which you support the school and your child's learning.

Yours sincerely,