

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

'Guided by Jesus, Learning together, Striving for excellence'



Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to those of you who completed our recent survey about Homework. As explained at the start of the survey, we know that homework is an issue where parents in a school community often have very different views – in fact, it's a bit like Marmite – people often tend to either love it or hate it! We appreciate that everyone's home lives, including work commitments are different and that whilst some children love homework and complete it willingly, in other families it is a cause of tension.

After consulting with the school community, we feel that the approach we have decided on will be beneficial to the pupil's education whilst still being manageable within busy family life.

As ever, we thank you for your support with this matter as we encourage our children to 'Strive for Excellence'.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs N. Hannett

Deputy Headteacher

Homework Expectations at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The expectations below follow a review of the school's approach to homework in September 2021, taking into account the views of parents, pupils, governors and staff in addition to educational research about the impact of Homework in schools by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and the chance for a child to have one to one adult time;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition and subtraction facts and spellings;
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, St. Joseph's is not a school in which homework dominates a child's home life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be purposeful and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

Homework set will be appropriate to the needs and ability of the child.

READING: All children should read for 15 – 20 minutes every night. Depending on the age and ability of the child, this could be sharing a book e.g. one of the 1000 stories; practising phonics sounds; the child reading to an adult and discussing their reading; the child reading independently and discussing their reading. Parents should sign their child's planner each night to say they have heard their child read before returning the planner and reading book to school every day.

SPELLINGS (Year 1 – 6:) Children will be given spellings to learn at home each week. These will be stuck into pupil planners and displayed on the class page of the school website.

MENTAL MATHS (Year 1 – 6:) Children will be expected to practice mental maths facts at home each week e.g. times tables, doubling facts, addition and subtraction facts. The focus for the week will be stuck into planners and displayed on the school website. From Year 1 upwards children will be provided with login details for 'Numbots' and 'Times Tables Rockstars' as these websites / apps can be used at home for children to practice these important facts.

PRAYER BAG: Children in each class will be given the class prayer bag to take home for one week during the school year. The children are encouraged to share prayers with their family and record their experience in the book provided.

NURSERY & RECEPTION: Teachers may set homework challenges for pupils to complete at home to encourage the children's independence and self care skills. E.g. learning to fasten their coat. These will be stuck into pupil planners and displayed on the class page of the school website.

SATS PREPARATION: In Year 6, children will be given additional work, where appropriate, in preparation for End of Key Stage tests.

Teachers will ensure a section of their Class Page on the school website provides links to additional resources appropriate to the learning needs of the children. Pupils will also have login details in their planners to be able to access additional learning from Purple Mash, Numbots & TTRockstars should parents wish for their child to complete further work at home.