

18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Homework and House Points

Dear Parents and Carers

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, this letter is to inform you of the changes and developments we have made to our homework and house point systems.

During 2016-17, we listened to feedback from children, parents, and staff both through informal conversations and also questionnaires. We collated the opinions of as many stakeholders as possible, as well as exploring the effectiveness of our current policies and practice. We hope that the changes and systems we have introduced will reflect our school's overriding values of 'Caring, Learning and Achieving Together.'

### Homework

It was agreed that the purpose of homework was for children to consolidate and practise particular skills.

From September 2017 the homework will be set as follows:

#### 1. Reading

- Reception and KS1 10 mins x 3 times per week and noted in reading record as agreed with teacher
- KS2 – 20 mins x 3 times per week and quizzes completed on AR

#### 2. Times tables (Year 2 and above)

- Tested weekly

#### 3. Spellings (Year One and above)

- Tested weekly.
- To include children's personal words, spelling patterns and word lists as per guidance

#### 4. Mymaths or SPAG.com

- Online challenges may also be set at the teacher's discretion

Children who complete the tasks will be rewarded by the class teacher via the dojo system. If children do not complete homework, the class teacher will speak to parent.

The times tables and spellings will be set weekly in the front of the purple Spelling homework book, tested, marked and returned home with the new task weekly.

Homework will be given out on Friday and collected on Wednesday.

Homework will not be set during the holidays unless children are required to do additional practice for statutory tests.

## 5. Termly topic homework

- In addition, teachers will set termly topic homework. The purpose of this is to enhance and deepen the children's understanding of a topic. It will include creative and physical elements that provide opportunity for children to work on the skills from the different subject areas, for example a teacher may provide a game with modelled examples.
- There is no expectation for this homework to be marked. Teachers may choose to share via a topic display or with the class.

## House Points

The house point and dojo system will merge. Going forward, children will simply be awarded 'dojo' points. These will be added to both the child's score (which can be seen by parents) and will also contribute to the overall score for the child's house.

Dojos are given based on the school's main values of 'Caring, Learning and Achieving together.' They can be given around school, by any member of staff. Classes also decide on other 'class' values they would like to be awarded dojos for.

The house captains will count up all the dojos given across school on a Friday afternoon and the winning house will be announced in celebration assembly. Children who belong to the winning house can come to school in free dress the following Monday.

The winning house will be communicated to parents via text message and the dojo system on a Friday afternoon.

I have today also shared this with the children in assembly and it was very well received! As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or myself.

Yours sincerely

Zoe Wilson