

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your support, patience and smiling faces during our first few weeks in school. Our aim was to ensure that all of the children were safe and happy in their new classrooms following new routines and guidance. We hope that you will agree that this has been a success. Please find below some information regarding reading books, homework and more.

Reading

There will be a much greater emphasis on reading as a homework task in order to reflect the importance of this subject. As a school, we are really trying to promote the idea of every child reading 'a book a week'. Children will be expected to read at least 3 times per week with an adult and this must be recorded in your child's home record. This will be monitored on a weekly basis by your child's class teacher/teaching assistant (twice weekly in Key Stage 1). In addition, in Key Stage 2, children will be expected to complete a book review in their reading record about the book which they have read each week – this is important as it will enable your child's teacher/teaching assistant to check that your child has understood what they have read and are able to talk about their reading in a meaningful way. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are now required to leave books untouched for 48 hours when they return to school, therefore your child's class will be given a day to bring their books back, they will be left for 2 days, and then changed and sent home with their new book. Consequently, your child will be given **one** banded book per week, as well as a chosen library book per week, or when they are needed to change. Each class also has a Reading Challenge, which gives a number of book titles suitable for their age group to try to read before the end of the year. Many of these books are in our class and school library for the children to use. You will also find this on the class pages on the website.

Times Tables

The second emphasis for homework will be rapid recall of times tables. The rapid recall of number facts is the foundation for virtually every aspect of primary. Without a good knowledge of number facts, then progress in these areas is always going to be slower. The teaching and learning of number facts can be greatly enhanced with the support of parents and guardians as part of children's home learning. Even a few minutes spent learning and recalling number facts three times a week will make a huge difference to your child. In order to practise rapid recall of tables, tables could be chanted, learnt as songs or action rhymes. Copy writing tables is another approach which may not appear very exciting, but children do often quite like the practice of doing it. Each class have a login for Times Tables Rockstars, which is a great online tool/app to aid rapid recall of times tables facts. The yearly order of learning times tables is as follows:

Year 1- counting in intervals of 2, 5 and 10

Year 2- 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables

Year 3- consolidate 3 times tables, learn 4 and 8 times tables

Year 4- consolidate all previous and learn 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables

Year 5 and 6- consolidate all previous times tables up to 12 x 12

Spellings

Weekly spelling lists will also still be given to reinforce spelling patterns and rules learnt in class and to learn how to spell key words. Children will be expected to learn their spellings using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method and these will be tested each week in class.

Cross Curricular

Alongside these 3 weekly homework tasks, we are still promoting cross curricular creative work based on the topics we cover in school. Ideas for topic homework will be given at the beginning of each Half Term in the form of a 'Learning Log' and will be on the website on each class page. Please also find the yearly curriculum overview on each class page to inform you what your child is learning throughout the curriculum across the year. As we are discouraging items being brought into school, we are asking children to share a photo or video of anything they have made/completed at home from the learning log on Seesaw or emailing to school. The class teacher will then be able to share the homework with the rest of the class and allow the child time to explain to the class what they have done.

Year 6

In order to prepare our Year 6 pupils for secondary school and for their SATs tests at the end of the year, Year 6 pupils will be given an additional piece of written homework each week (either comprehension, SPaG or Maths). In addition, they will be given more homework after Christmas to prepare them for their SATs in May. This will only apply to our Year 6 pupils.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C Raftery
Deputy Head teacher