

The Federation of Holy Trinity Church of England Schools Homework Challenge

As a Federation, we have taken time to consider the implementation of our homework policy. We are determined to ensure that homework set for pupils is meaningful, purposeful and supportive of the learning pupils are currently focusing on in school.

Homework should support progress and consolidate learning, whilst also giving parents the opportunity to participate in their child's learning and develop a supportive home-school partnership.

As part of the recent survey we conducted across the Federation, parents were asked about their views on current homework practices. We have also taken this into account when refreshing our approach to homework.

Half-termly Homework Pyramids

Each half-term, pupils will be set a 'pyramid' of tasks to complete at home. In recognition of the differing way in which pupils and families approach homework, we have organised these pyramids into 'must', 'should' and 'could' sections to guide pupils and parents in which tasks are most important and which can be chosen as additional to the basic essential requirements.

Must tasks are those which focus on the fundamental core skills taught in school and which need to be practised so they can be applied to other subjects across the curriculum e.g. reading every night. Spelling focuses will be laid out in the order taught from left to right.

Should tasks are those which are related to key aspects of school input, for example Learning Means the World topics and pupils can choose some or all of these during the half-term.

Could tasks are those which link to a wider variety of the school curriculum and present pupils with a broad opportunity to share their fabulous home learning.

Finally, the '**Whole School Challenge**' is, as the name suggests, a challenge for all pupils to engage with at a level appropriate to them. For example, the first whole school challenge is to design a piece of artwork on the theme of 'What a Wonderful World'. At the end of every half-term, all pupils will have the chance to enter their whole school challenge homework into a competition!

A few organisational points

- Homework books will be provided to collect all home learning together in one place
- Homework books should be given in each Thursday for staff to look at and will be given back to the children each Friday
- Rewards for excellent effort will be given out throughout the term
- A special Praise Assembly showcasing the great work will be held at the end of each half-term and the pupils will share their learning with the rest of the school
- Staff will monitor homework each week. They will check pupils are engaging and recognise excellent effort (based on their knowledge of pupils on an individual basis). For example, staff will check Reading Eggs/NumBots records to monitor progress throughout the week; they will monitor spelling/phonics progress in informal tests on a weekly basis (these will be based on what the pupils have been taught in school); they will give verbal feedback and/or stamps and stickers to acknowledge effort presented in the homework books on a regular basis throughout the half-term
- Tips and links will be added to class pages on the school website regularly – particularly helpful when finding words to fit spelling patterns!