



## Home Learning

When we sent out a parent survey just before Christmas a few parents commented that perhaps there was a little too much Home Learning. During the Spring term we thought about this and considered how we could have less Home Learning but actually increase its benefit.

The type of Home Learning your child will receive each week is explained below. The really important change is that the quantity of work involved in each activity will be less. However, **we would really like your child to complete their Home Learning in a slightly different way and we think this will mean that it has an even bigger impact on their progress. We want your child to complete a task bit by bit, over more than one sitting, so that they are familiarising with it over a few days.** So, for example, an older child might be set a series of calculations. We don't want your child to sit down and do them in one night. Instead, we want them to complete a couple one night, a couple the next night and so on. This will mean that the learning stays fresh in their head and has a much greater chance of becoming really fixed and understood. The same principle applies for practising spellings or using the word tins in Thunderbolt and so on.

All home learning will be given out on a Friday and should be returned on the following Wednesday. Home Learning for the summer term will start on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

If you ever have any questions about a piece of home learning, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Home learning for **Thunderbolt Class** is mainly focused on the development of reading. This includes;

- Word tins – to develop key words that often cannot be sounded out. We begin with a small set and, as they become confident with these words (recognising them in all contexts, not just the small cards in their tin), a new set will be added that week. There are 12 sets, with the children learning and remembering more than 60 key words.
- Phonics - recognising and hearing the sounds letters make in words. In addition to individual sounds, the class is now focused on letters that join together to make different sounds (digraphs and trigraphs), including ay (may I play) and ee (what can you see). We will include these as part of the homework for your information, and might sometimes send lists of words to sound out and blend to read.
- Reading books. These will include books to share (from our school library) and shorter texts that the children can begin to read to you with support. Please see our separate Reading Leaflet, which explains home reading in more detail.

We will also include practical elements for home learning, that focus on maths and other curriculum areas. Many of these need no recording at all, and many will also make full use of the outdoors!

In **Tornado class** we will send home 3 weekly tasks; spellings, reading and maths. These will be short, sharp tasks and will always be linked to the learning in class either from the current week, a recap of learning from previous weeks or as a starting point for forthcoming learning. Home learning will be sent home on a Friday to be returned on a Wednesday. It is not expected that each task will be completed in one sitting but instead they should be completed bit by bit over the 5 days so that the children are practising their learning again and again. In addition to this, each

half term there will be a practical home learning task linked with our overarching topic. This piece will be sent out during the half term with a completion date within the last week of the half term. This piece will not be formally marked but the children will be expected to share it with the rest of the class. These tasks may vary from making a model, to research, to a cooking activity and are designed to encourage family time. The children will then present them to the rest of the class.

In **Hercules Class**, we will be sending home a Home Learning sheet each Friday. It includes tasks linked to Reading, Spelling, Maths, as well as a Mystery Challenge that will focus on a variety of curriculum areas. Most of the tasks should be completed on the Home Learning sheet itself, but occasionally a task may ask your child to think more creatively and choose how to present their final home learning, for example, it might be a practical task or the creation of something on a computer. The tasks will either be linked to learning from the current week or learning that's coming up in the following week.

We recommend that children spend approximately 15-20 minutes on each task each week. As has been explained at the top of this letter, we would like the children to complete some tasks a little each day so that they keep practising their learning.

The children have a home learning book for each task to be completed in and which they should return to school each Wednesday morning.