

22nd September 2023

Homework

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, at the end of last academic year we wrote to you to let you know that we were changing the way we were delivering homework this academic year. We did a lot of consultation with pupils, families and staff to develop a new policy for this academic year. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the questionnaire, we had some of the most detailed feedback we have ever received and it was very helpful.

What to expect this year:

- Homework will now be given out on a Monday and collected in on a Monday – a text message will be sent out as a reminder prompt
- We have moved away from using solely online platforms and children will now have homework folders (Year 1 to year 6) to support handwriting and letter formation
- Homework will focus on maths, spelling and reading
- There will be additional options for families who would like more
- Online platforms will still be available for children who wish to access age appropriate learning games

Reading:

Reading at home is a primary focus of Moorgate's homework. Children will be sent home weekly with a book that is appropriate for their reading level. Children should be heard read by an adult at home at least three times a week and ideally daily for short periods. Parents/Carers are asked to sign their child's reading diary to say what their child has read and understood. In class, staff members will check children's diaries and change their reading books regularly. If a child appears not to be reading at home, reminders will be sent and children will be heard read at school.

English:

English homework will focus on the practicing of weekly spellings that link directly with the phonic or spelling rule recently taught in class to reinforce and practise at home. The number of spellings children are given each week will depend on their year group and will be no more than 10 words. Children will be encouraged to practise the spellings by 'Look, cover, write, check' method to give opportunities to practice handwriting and letter joins at the same time. In school, children will take part in retrieval games to practise spellings; there will not be a formal spelling test.

Maths:

Maths homework will vary depending on the year group children are in. Additional information about this is below. For the majority of children there will be a heavy focus on fluency within number, including multiplication tables and arithmetic skills focusing on the four operations, which will focus on current learning or an opportunity to revisit and recall previously taught content. Children in years 3 & 4 will focus on instant recall of their multiplication times tables.

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| Reception | 30 minutes a week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have homework books. Each week children will have a piece of Phonics and Maths homework. • The use of a book will support children with their fine motor skills to improve letter and number formation. • Decodable reading books being heard read 3 times a week |
| Year 1 & 2 | 45 minutes a week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard read 3 times a week with a range of decodable and sight word books • Up to 6 spellings a week focusing on the sounds taught that week • Maths fluency worksheet |
| Year 3 & 4 | 50 minutes a week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard read 3 times a week • Up to 8 spellings a week focusing on the spelling rules taught that week • TTRock Stars online focusing on multiplications times tables |
| Year 5 & 6 | 1 hour a week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard read 3 times a week • Up to 10 spellings a week focusing on the spelling rules taught that week • Maths fluency worksheet |

Wider opportunities:

We recognise that families may also want to take part in wider projects that reflect pupil's talents in other subjects such as a science, art or history. Each half term, class teachers will share project ideas in the form of a year group newsletter that reflect the topics currently being taught in school. Children are welcome to bring their completed projects into school to be celebrated in class.

In addition, children are challenged to complete '50 things to achieve before you leave Moorgate'. Challenges can be completed both at home and school for example 'Plan and cook a meal' or 'Sleep in a tent'. Families are encouraged to email or bring in examples of their children's successes into school to be ticked off and celebrated.

Children will also have home access to Purple Mash to practise and consolidate their computing skills across the curriculum.

We appreciate that homework does not fit all families' circumstances, however, as a school we ask that families prioritise reading and ensure that their child is read to weekly and that their reading diary is signed. We read everyday in class and ask that reading books and reading diaries are in school every day to support this.

If you would like any further information around homework, please speak with your child's class teacher who will happily help.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Eaglefield

ACHIEVE, CHALLENGE, ENJOY!