

15th September 2017

'Pick and Mix' Homework (Years 1-6)

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Today your child will bring home their Learning Log for the first time this year. Over the last few years we have adapted our approach to home learning across the school to give children more freedom and independence to learn about the subjects or topic areas they are most interested in. This approach is used by Montsaye and other primary schools in the MCLP and is proving very successful.

Each half-term your child will bring home a 'Pick and Mix' sheet. On the left-hand side is a reminder of the short activities that we would like children to complete regularly – daily reading, learning spellings and practising times table facts. On the right-hand side is a menu of 'bigger treats' linked to learning in school. Your child should choose 2 or 3 of these, as specified, to complete each half-term and should choose activities from different sections so that their learning is varied. This equates to roughly one activity per fortnight which should take no longer than an hour in Key Stage 2 or half an hour in Key Stage 1 per activity. We don't expect children to draft their work first or for every piece of work to be perfect! Our homework approach is to encourage enjoyment and to develop some routines for home learning. At the end of each half-term your child should bring their Learning Log into school for a class celebration of home learning.

All of the activities are practical in nature and should need minimal support or guidance from parents. Children can use ICT if this helps them but we have removed any research activities as we understand that families don't always have the facilities or time to carry out research activities. We hope that by giving children more choice this removes the anxiety that some children feel when the task or worksheet they have been given isn't to their liking, or they can't remember or explain what has been learnt in school. Children in Key Stage 2, who we hope can work a little more independently, are also invited to attend the Library club at lunchtimes to work on their home learning. Miss Kelly runs Library Club and will support children with their homework as needed.

If you have any worries or questions, please let us know so that we can work together. Home learning should never be a battle and we want children to enjoy their homework and to look forward to bringing what they have learnt back into school for us all to share.

Yours faithfully,

J Heald

Miss J Heald
Deputy Headteacher

Growing together on our learning journey

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