



Wednesday 6th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Alder Class Homework Explained

Homework is important in terms of developing organisation and self-discipline as well as to aid learning. It should not be seen as a series of arduous tasks given out to inflict pain and misery! The single most important thing is that children do their best and hand in something, it may not always be right, but it should be well presented and demonstrate application and some thought. If a task genuinely cannot be achieved then children should make this known to me at the earliest opportunity so relevant support can be given.

This year the homework will take the form of short 20-30 minute activities that must be handed in the day after the task is set. There will not be a weekly homework sheet; each task will be individually set and explained on the day. This should alleviate the “leave it till the last minute” syndrome, as each task has to be done straight away and returned to school the next day. Generally, homework should be completed in a ‘Homework Book’, although some may occasionally take the form of a worksheet or perhaps be non-written, such as a research, discussion or a thinking task.

English homework will generally revolve around a grammar, punctuation or spelling (GPS) theme, but will occasionally be preparation/planning for a writing task. Specific **Reading** activities will be given separately, usually as follow up to guided reading sessions in class, although children are expected to read their own books at home whenever possible (ideally daily).

Maths homework will usually be a calculations-based task. This will generally relate to the previous week’s learning and act as a revision/reinforcement exercise. There will also be an expectation that the children will chip away at key mental maths (primarily times tables) as and when necessary. The non-negotiable expectation is that **all** year six know **all** their times tables.

Topic homework will generally be focussed around either a research-based task to help prepare for the future humanities studies, or to complete a task already started in the lesson.

Children will be expected to practise **spelling** continually throughout the year. A comprehensive list of words will be given at the start of the year and the expectation is that the children will familiarise themselves with them at home and school. We will not initially do weekly spelling tests; they will be phased in after a few weeks when the

children are ready. There will also be periodic 'blind' spelling tests (children will not know the words in advance) to help them get used to what they will come up against in May's SATs. Spelling words will be incorporated into GPS, handwriting and other English learning; the children being expected to use them accurately in their writing.

Whatever the subject matter, it is recommended that short sharp bursts of learning, little and often, are the most effective way of improving knowledge and understanding – if a child is getting bored or frustrated with a task, leave it, take a break and come back to it later.

Once a half term there will be a break from the normal homework routine so as to allow time for the children to complete a longer, individual research-based project on a given theme. Also, as SATs loom after Easter, we will change the focus of the homework tasks, and the timetable, to accommodate revision exercises.

No homework will be set for the weekends, or holidays as I believe they should be a time for rest and relaxation!

The homework timetable for the Autumn Term is attached to this letter, which will come into effect from Monday 18th September, after the children have settled into the routines of the new school year.

Your support with homework is valued, appreciated and helps accelerate progress and raises attainment.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Vokes

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE				
<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
ENGLISH (GPS)	MATHS	TOPIC (Learning Means the World)	READING	None!

All homework is to be handed in the next day, unless notified otherwise.

Things to remember!				
<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
	PE Kit (Be prepared for all weathers – inside or out!) <i>Your GPS homework!</i>	Swimming Kit (Costume or trunks, towel and cap – no goggles.) PE Kit if not swimming <i>Your maths homework!</i>	 <i>Your topic homework!</i>	Headphones (3.5mm jack) <i>Reading homework and all spellings learnt!</i>

****Note: A fully equipped pencil case should be kept at school (or brought in every day).***