



Autumn 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

## Homework at St Mary's

We have updated our Homework Policy as we believe homework is an important part of the learning process for our children.

### Compulsory Homework

#### **Reading**

Reading underpins the Homework Policy as we believe that reading is fundamental to functioning in today's society - it develops our children's imaginations and expands their understanding of the world. All children will start reading wordless books in Reception and then progress onto the school-reading scheme. As well as this, children in Year R – 2, and those in KS2 still working on phonics, will take home a phonics book linked to the sound they are learning. When children have passed the benchmarking for 'Black' books, they will become a free reader. Reading books are also available on our online reading programme 'Reading Planet' for Year R – 6.

We expect children to read at home to an adult at least 5 times a week and for this to be recorded and signed by an adult in the child's Reading Record book. We welcome parental comments about the reading they have heard. Children who read at home 5 or more times a week will be rewarded with their name on the 'Reading Challenge', which can lead to a prize.

All children in Year 2 – 6 will be provided with a CGP reading workbook to help develop their comprehension skills. Each week, children are expected to read **one** text in the book and to answer the questions about it. The children should work through the texts in the order they are presented in the book. Children are to bring these workbooks in with their Reading Records **every Thursday**. The children will mark their own work as part of a whole class session where the teacher will go through each question.

#### **Times Tables**

Children are expected to consolidate their understanding of the Times Tables through use of games and regular recall at home. Children have access to the online programme 'Times Table Rockstars' where they will be individually set times tables according to the progress they have made in school. At the end of each week, the top three users in each Key Stage (The Rock Heroes) will be celebrated in school. We expect children to practise their multiplication tables **at least 3 times a week**.

#### **NumBots**

From the innovators of Times Tables Rock Stars, comes a highly engaging platform for learning to add and subtract. NumBots is all about every child achieving the 'triple win' of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating. Pupils choose their own Bot before launching into 'Story' and 'Challenge' modes, where the Numbots algorithm takes care of their learning. We expect children to consolidate their recall and fluency of number by playing for **at least 3 minutes a day, 4 or 5 times a week**. As they progress, pupils collect achievement badges and unlock hundreds of new levels and challenges.

#### **Spellings**

Children are expected to consolidate their Spellings through the use of games and regular practise at home. Children in Year 2 – 6 have access to the online programme 'Spelling Shed' where they will be set spellings that match the rule they are learning in school. A new rule will be taught each week and will be reflected in



the game e.g. words that end in -tion. Children are expected to practise these words at least **3 times a week**.

At the beginning of the year, the children will be given a list of all of the words in the National End of Year Expectations for their year group. The children may not be tested on all of these words, but they will be expected to show their ability to spell them when completing written tasks. These words can also be practised on Spelling Shed. They will appear on the screen after the children have completed the spellings set by the class teacher 3 times. At the end of each term, all children will be assessed against their year group's spelling expectations.

Spellings, Times Tables and Numbots will be set **each Monday** and will be monitored by the Class Teacher on the **following Monday**.

## **Optional Self-Directed Homework tasks**

- Purple Mash (online curriculum programme) which pupils can access from home using their personal logins.
- Letter Join (online handwriting programme) which pupils can access using our school login (Username: hart Password: road).

All these online subscriptions are a cost to the school and we will be monitoring their use. If they are not being utilised, we will not be able to renew these programmes.

## **Website**

In order to support our children's development with their English and Maths skills, additional tasks, games and online activity links are available on the school website.

## **Reception**

During your child's first weeks at school, children will be given letter and number cards to support their learning. Once the children start Reception, and start to learn new sounds, they will be given optional phonics homework in the form of phonics ten-minute weekly workout books to support learning these sounds at home. At the end of each half term, any completed work will be celebrated in school.

## **Year 1**

In order to consolidate the children's learning of phonics, Year 1 will complete one page a week of a CGP 10 Minute Weekly Workout book to support with learning sounds at home. The children should work through the tasks in the order they are presented in the book. They are to bring these workbooks in with their Reading Records **every Thursday** where they will be checked and marked as a whole class.

## **Year 2 & Year 6**

In order to prepare the children for their SATS, revision materials may be sent home when teachers feel it is appropriate. Revision material will not be marked by the teacher but we encourage parents to discuss the work with their children.

## **Extra Information**

- On occasion, the children will be set optional tasks linked to a curriculum day/focus. This will be communicated to parents.
- It is an expectation that children will continue to read for pleasure and practise times tables during the holidays.



- Learning is not restricted to the classroom and we actively encourage our children to be creative and extend their learning at home and follow their own lines of enquiry. If your child is fascinated by a topic and would like to bring in projects from home, they are very welcome to do so.

**Homework of Reading, Comprehension or Phonics, Times Table Rockstars, Numbots and Spelling Shed is not optional.**

If you have any concerns about the homework your child is receiving, or you are unsure about how best you can support your child's learning, the first point of contact must always be the class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Miss O'Brien  
Writing Lead

Miss Simmons  
Reading Lead

Mr Baddock  
Maths Lead