



Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find attached your child's Homework Challenges for the autumn term. Your child will be taking home their challenges today.

We were, again, really pleased with the high standard of the challenges completed across the school last year. So many children had clearly tried their best with carefully presented work, high quality drawings, interesting stories, stunning artwork and 3D models to name a few examples. It is always a special time when children share their completed homework challenges at the end of the term, celebrating their successes and receiving their awards. Thank you for your support with this. The challenges reflect the topics in school and go a long way to support the children's work in the curriculum. They are practising important skills in what we hope are a stimulating format for your child.

This year we will be making some changes to the format of our homework to reward children for learning spellings, times tables and maths facts, as well as reading at home every week. These tasks- along with a challenge to develop your child's empowering learning skills- will form the red 'compulsory tasks'. There will also be the more creative challenges to choose from. The basic format for homework will be as follows:

EYFS:

Bronze Award: Complete the compulsory red tasks only

Silver Award: Complete the compulsory red tasks plus 1 other challenge.

Gold Award: Complete the compulsory red tasks plus 2 other challenges.

Years 1 to 6:

Bronze Award: Complete the compulsory red tasks plus 2 other challenges.

Silver Award: Complete the compulsory red tasks plus 4 other challenges.

Gold Award: Complete the compulsory red tasks plus 6 other challenges.

There will be a halfway checkpoint on Monday 30th October which will give your child the opportunity to share their work so far with the rest of the class so that they can get feedback and support with the tasks. For some of the tasks, if you would like your child to hand their homework on a more frequent basis (for example, every week) then please let their class teacher know. If your child needs any further support with their homework, please let their class teacher know and they will be happy to help.

As you will see on the challenge sheet, the aim for children is to always try their best and present their homework to the best of their own personal ability. Children can choose which activities to complete and which award to go for: it does not always have to be a Gold Award, they may choose to complete fewer activities but to a very high standard for example. Where we feel that children have excelled, teachers may give additional awards.

We appreciate that homework is a contentious issue. There are a wide range of views but we hope that we give children enough variety and opportunity to build upon and develop new skills that are linked to their topic in school. We feel that the homework also gives parents/carers an opportunity to have greater involvement in their child's curriculum and learning. The expectations of the new curriculum are higher than they have ever been. Whilst this should be seen as a positive, it does mean that schools need even greater support from parents/carers to help children achieve such high expectations. Naturally younger children will need more support with their homework than children further up the school. We try to offer a range of activities that lend themselves to greater independence with only a small input required by parents/carers. Again, if you require more support with this, we are happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Street". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard Street
Deputy Head