**Plat Douet School**

**Homework Guidance**



**January 2016**

At Plat Douet Primary School, we believe that strong, positive links between home and school are of prime importance. One of the ways in which we can foster a true sense of partnership between home and school is through homework, where teachers and parents/carers can work as a team on a regular basis for the benefit of each individual child. Your support with homework makes such a difference and can improve your child’s general confidence in learning both in and out of the school.

We hope that you will find this guide helpful and valuable as you support your child in his or her homework.

*January 2016*

*We aim to provide a welcoming and caring learning environment in which the whole school community works together to inspire each child to become a responsible citizen in an ever-changing world.*

**Why do we give homework?**

* To consolidate, support and extend learning.
* To encourage independent lifelong learning skills.
* To develop organisational skills, self-discipline and responsibility for learning.
* To enable pupils to make use of resources beyond the school learning environment eg town library, museums.
* To place learning in a real world context.
* To encourage parent/carer/school relationships and provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to share learning experiences.
* To encourage parents/carers to be a part of their child/rens education.
* To raise parents/carers awareness of what their child is learning at school.
* To prepare pupils for the homework demands of secondary education.

**Staff are expected to work towards our aims by:**

* Setting homework which is varied, has a clear focus and takes into account the differing ability levels of the pupils in the class.
* Making sure that homework extends and consolidates work that has been done in class and mainly focuses on the areas of English, mathematics and topic.
* Inform parents if their child regularly fails to do their homework or if it is below the expected standard for that child.
* Praise achievement and ensure that all homework is marked as soon as possible.

**Pupils are expected to work towards our aims by:**

* Making full use of all the opportunities they are presented with.
* Tackling home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
* Taking pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
* Being organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school.
* Taking responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

**Parents are expected to work towards our aims by:**

* Find a family time where you can support your child with their homework.
* Providing suitable quiet surroundings i.e. not in front of the television.
* Encouraging younger family members to play quieter games if in the same room.
* Encouraging children to persevere with a task even if it seems daunting at first, and giving support if necessary.
* Giving due importance to non-written tasks such as hearing reading and assisting in the learning of times tables, number facts and weekly spellings.
* Keeping the staff informed of any changes in the child's circumstances which may affect learning.

**How much homework should be set?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reception** | **Years 1 & 2** | **Years 3 & 4** | **Year 5 & 6** |
| **Recommend time to be spent Homework** | A total of 40 minutes **per week.** | A total of approximately 1 hour **per week**. | A total of approximately 1.5 hours **per week**. | A total of approximately 30 minutes **per day**. |

The table below shows an example ‘Homework Plan’.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reception** | **Years 1 & 2** |
| **Monday** | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables |
| **Tuesday** | 5 minutes reading | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables |
| **Wednesday** | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables |
| **Thursday** | 5 minutes reading | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables |
| **Friday** | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables | 5 minutes reading  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables |
| **Saturday** | No homework | 5 minutes reading |
| **Sunday** | No homework | 5 minutes reading |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Years 3 & 4** | **Year 5 & 6** |
| **Monday** | 10 minutes reading  5 minutes spelling/grammar  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables | 20 minutes reading  5 minutes spelling/grammar  10 minutes Times Tables |
| **Tuesday** | 10 minutes reading  5 minutes spelling/grammar  5 minutes Number Bonds/Times Tables | 20 minutes reading  5 minutes spelling/grammar  10 minutes Times Tables |
| **Wednesday** | 10 minutes reading  5 minutes spelling | 20 minutes reading  10 minutes spelling/grammar  10 minutes Times Tables |
| **Thursday** | 10 minutes reading | 20 minutes reading |
| **Friday** | 10 minutes reading | 20 minutes reading |
| **Saturday** | No homework | No homework |
| **Sunday** | No homework | No homework |

**What happens if pupils do not complete the homework set?**

Parents/carers are encouraged to inform the school/class teacher if their child has not completed the homework set by writing a note in the reading or homework diary. Teachers are aware that home circumstances can impact on a child’s ability to complete homework and they will offer support or advice to parents/carers as appropriate. Children with family difficulties can use the early morning 8:30 – 8:45 session to complete their homework.

If a child in Year Three, Four, Five or Six fails to complete homework, the teacher will write a comment in the homework diary to inform the parent that a homework detention will be set the next day if the work is not still completed and returned to school. Teachers should exercise discretion whether to issue a homework detention if a child who has an excellent record of completing and returning homework fails to do so on an isolated occasion.

Children who are serving a homework detention will remain inside during morning break (Y3/4) and lunch play (Y5/6) to complete the homework supervised by a member of staff. A homework detention slip will be completed by the class teacher and handed to the Key Stage Manager for monitoring.

The Upper Key Stage 2 Manager will send a letter when three pieces of homework have not been completed within a term for pupils in Y5/6. This letter will explain that an after school detention will be given if another piece of homework is not completed on time this term.