

Sytchampton Endowed First School

Stourport-on-Severn,
Worcestershire
DY13 9SX.
Tel: 01905 620418 Fax: 01905 621309

Email: office@syтчamptonfirst.worcs.sch.uk
Website: www.sytчamptonfirst.worcs.sch.uk



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Dear parents,

CURRICULUM EVENING

First of all we would like to invite you to a Curriculum evening on Tuesday 17th March from 6.00-7.00pm. There has been a great deal of change in education recently and we would like to share the New Curriculum and new assessment criteria with you, and invite you to attend workshops with staff, as well as looking at your child's work in books and on display. This will help to inform you before our Parents Consultation Day on Wednesday 25th March.

HOMEWORK REVIEW

At our recent Parents Forum homework was raised as an issue with parents from Year 2 upwards requesting more homework.

Can I first of all take the opportunity to outline our current homework :

Falcons: word cards to develop phonics for letter sounds and blends. Moving on to reading books when children are successfully reading CVC words eg. CAT. (consonant, vowel, consonant)

WoW moment cards are available from the website to show home learning. Topic themes are shared with parents and children are encouraged to develop their ideas at home eg. space theme.

A visit from Melvin- share with us what you have done with Melvin the dragon for the weekend.

Ospreys and Hawks: Weekly spellings appropriate for year group and in line with the new curriculum. These need to be learnt at home and it is a good idea to ask children to write the words into a sentence. They can also practise their handwriting when doing this. Times tables practise is also expected as part of home learning and is tested in school alongside spellings. The expectation is that pupils at the end of year 4 know their tables facts to x12.

Reading: children are assessed in school and then have reading book with a coloured book band, moving to free choice in KS2. They are encouraged to read this with you at home and record this in their reading log. Reading is encouraged as a pleasurable experience to be shared at home and the reading logs have additional space for children to respond to a favourite book. The logs also have additional words children can practise at home.

It is also important to encourage children to read a range of materials: books, magazines, recipes, and instructions, information on a computer, as well as choosing books at home and from the library. **We aim for 100% of our children to be reading on and above age related expectations by year 4.**



I complete reading assessments with all pupils termly and staff monitor reading through daily guided reading sessions. The learning logs are checked for frequency of use but are **not meant as a dialogue with staff** – more a toolkit of extra activities for pupils. I intend to monitor these termly and offer an **INCENTIVE** of one book token per class for a learning log which shows a range of reading experiences and some creative tasks.

Homework log dialogue: some parents have asked for a dialogue about homework and we feel that it would be best to use the Homework diary for this. We will also encourage pupils to comment on what they have been learning during the week should you wish to support them at home, for example: Ospreys have looked at animals in Australia, we have been learning to tell the time to O'clock and half past.

Optional sheets are also given out to reinforce class learning in KS2 and year 2 will also have some additional sheets as they are assessed for KS1 SATS.

Curriculum Homework

Falcons and Ospreys : The topic web is published on our website and parents are encouraged to link any home learning to this eg.Passport to the World

Hawks: In line with our creative curriculum children are encouraged to complete some project style homework to enhance their learning. This links with the wider curriculum since our topic work starts off with a visit or visitor and ends with a presentation of this topic work or an exhibition of homework or a production to celebrate learning. I attach an example from Hawks for the Spring term.

NEW !!!! J2e – I attach a letter which explains the new educational software we have now purchased, thanks again to our **PTA**. This letter has your child's unique user name and password which we have tried to keep as simple as possible. This software will be used in school and children are encouraged to use the links to extend their learning. These links are APP based and can be used on any device. **CAN I SUGGEST YOU HAVE A GO OVER HALF TERM – PUPILS AND STAFF WILL HAVE TRAINING FROM THE J2E TEAM AFTER HALF TERM.**

Website – important Links eg . to practice phonics in year 1 in preparation for testing in May. Our topic plans and new curriculum overviews are on and we will also put on copies of the homework diaries.

I hope this gives you a clear guideline on the types of homework that is available at Sytchampton and I would like to stress that there is an expectation to complete the homework diary for spellings, times tables and home reading as a **minimum**. Other homework is not compulsory for this age group but the expectation would increase as we move to upper KS2, and would be aimed at complementing what children learn in school. I appreciate that many of our pupils have lots of other out of school activities which I encourage and celebrate in our assemblies.

I look forward to seeing you at our Curriculum evening, thank you for your support,

Sharon Williams