



All Saints CE VC Primary School

Bishops Caundle

Sherborne

Dorset

DT9 5NQ

Headteacher
Mrs A. Crumpler BEd, NPQH

Tel/Fax: 01963 23450

E-mail: office@bishopscaundle.dorset.sch.uk

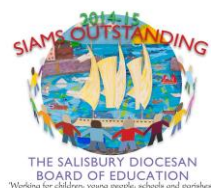
11th May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Yr2,

We are writing to clarify some issues around home learning. We know that parents and carers have differing views on this subject and we understand some of the difficulties around home learning too, especially with our younger children. Despite this, we do believe that home learning is helpful in establishing links and expectations between home and school whilst consolidating class learning and encouraging independence. We see the positive effects of this and research into the impact of parents/carers supporting their children's learning at home is well-documented and proven to be the most powerful positive influence on children's academic progress and success.

Year 2 is a national assessment year and teachers must make their own assessments of children in reading, writing and maths. These are reported to parents and carers. The children carry out assessment tests to support teachers' judgements but these are not the assessment tools. The children will practice the test questions in a supportive way to ensure they are well prepared. The curriculum expectations (set by the government) for children to achieve 'age related expectations' (ARE) are high and Miss Withers would be happy to share requirements with you as I'm sure she has at parent/carers consultation meetings.

Some parents/carers are concerned about pressure on children. Whilst we have the highest aspirations for the children (and will support them to make the maximum progress from wherever their starting points may be) there is no pressure applied around the assessment process. We aim to keep you fully informed about how your children are achieving and again this is measured around the progress they are making rather than achieving ARE or above. We also will share with you whether your child is on track to achieve ARE or not.



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Weekly home learning is set in Year 2. Alongside daily reading recorded in the Reading Record, this is generally spellings and maths. The learning is set on Wednesdays to be returned the following Wednesday. If it is forgotten, then it may be returned the following day – Thursday. In response to parent/carers' requests for achievements to be communicated back home, Miss Withers needs to mark and reset home learning. It can become difficult to manage this when home learning is constantly being chased through the week. To ensure that this process can run smoothly and tasks are not late in being set, children may be asked to complete tasks at playtime on Thursday, however children will always be given a short period outside to get some fresh air.

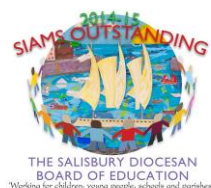
Some parents/carers request more learning to complete at home with their children and this can be very powerful and supportive. Recently, parents and carers have been providing invaluable feedback on areas of maths children are finding more challenging when learning at home. Miss Withers has found this home/school dialogue really helpful.

Please can we communicate clearly that children are not 'kept in' due to national assessments. Can we also ask for your support with ensuring that Home Learning books are returned to school each Wednesday or Thursday at the latest or an explanation provided. We will always help when we can! Miss Withers is very grateful for every book being handed in on time this week and she was then able to spend her break time preparing for the next session.

Finally, please continue to support your children and encourage them to achieve their very best. They are amazing and never cease to inspire us.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Crumpler
Head Teacher



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