



All Saints Primary School

Weekly Parent Email

W/E 8th March 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

All Saints approach to Home Learning The amount and type of home learning to set is always controversial for schools. There are parents and carers who relish the opportunity to work alongside their children and request more than is set, others who disagree with home learning being set at all and various viewpoints in between. I would like to explain how Home Learning fits the ethos of All Saints School. We value ALL learning and our aim is to create a lifelong love of learning in our children so that they achieve well in our ever-changing world. We cannot achieve this alone and research shows that parents'/carers' interest in a child's learning is the MOST powerful motivational influence towards children achieving their potential.

Therefore, we are keen to develop a strong home school partnership. One of the ways we can achieve this, is by children continuing some learning at home – in the early years with guidance and gradually with increasing independence, but always with support and encouragement from you. Class teachers explain about Home Learning in individual classes or year groups at the 'Meet and Greet' at the start of each year and this information is made available to all parents and carers.

Continuing learning at home helps children to consolidate skills and understanding learnt in school and most importantly enables children to share their learning with you. The power of parents/carers valuing this cannot be underestimated. Home learning also provides opportunities to extend school learning and explore different learning resources. As children get older home learning helps them develop the confidence and self-discipline necessary for self-directed study.

Due to the positive benefits mentioned above, All Saints believes in home learning. We see so much success, pride and enthusiasm in many of our children as they present home learning, which we simply would never want to lose. We aim to make the activities as varied as possible. Reading daily, learning spellings/tables and completing some maths questions are all fairly standard, but at All Saints we also have a unique approach to project learning in KS2 quite unlike other schools:

- Every child is given clear success criteria for guidance.
- Home learning is checked at a mid-point to ensure children can achieve success and many children opt to edit and improve at this stage – brilliant learner behaviour!
- Detailed feedback is given and celebration of learning is shared with children and parents/carers. Awards are given to children who reach targets set from previous learning to ensure that they move their learning forward. This positive reinforcement helps children learn that success is achieved as a result of effort.

This amount of support takes a lot of time by school staff, but because we recognise the value, we remain dedicated to this.

We recognise learning at home should be positive and manageable. If children require extra support or find it difficult to complete home learning, school staff give their own time to run home learning clubs at lunchtime. Please see this as yet another measure of our commitment.

In conclusion, shared time together with your child supporting their learning is invaluable. Help them to realise how special this is. Children not wanting to complete home learning is not a reason to stop. Children would opt out of many things they need to do, if given the choice!

A few more things....

Parents' Evening: Parent's evenings this term are taking place on Monday 25th 4.00pm – 6pm and Thursday 28th March 6pm – 8pm. Please refer to the attached letter for further details and do not hesitate to contact the school office if you experience difficulties in accessing the on-line booking system.

School Bags: A reminder that we operate a no rucksack policy for school bags. We simply do not have the cloakroom space to accommodate them. Thank you for supporting this.

App of the Week: This week's recommended App is Spelling Monsters which is a great little app for helping children to learn their spellings through some fun games. Please refer to the attached article compiled by Mrs Legg.

School Values: Our school value this half term is Compassion. Please refer to the attached PDF document for more details.

Many thanks for your continued support.
Kind regards,

All Saints

Letters home this week include:

- What's on this week w/c 11th March 2019
- Book Week Letter (emailed on 7th March)
- Parent Evening Letter
- All Saints App of the Week
- Saturday Live@5 Flyer & Letter – **This Saturday 9th March**
- Home School Values - Compassion